



NORTH

Rajasthan: Jeep collides with trailer truck, 7 killed

Jaipur: Seven people died in a road accident near Jobner in Jaipur district on Thursday when the jeep they were traveling in collided head-on with a trailer truck. "A trailer hit a jeep in which several people from one village were traveling. Seven people died on the spot because of the impact of the accident," said Jobner SHO Phool Chand Sharma. Police said the trailer driver is untraceable since the accident. Post-mortem have been done and a case has been registered against the trailer driver, said police. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot express his solidarity with families of those who lost their lives in the accident. ENS



The *Boiga thackerayi* has been named after Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray's younger son Tejas, who was part of the research team. Courtesy: Tejas Thackeray

WEST

New species of snake named after Uddhav's younger son

Mumbai: A team of biodiversity researchers has discovered a new species of cat snake in Maharashtra's Western Ghats, making it the first such discovery in 125 years. The species has been named *Boiga thackerayi* after Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray's younger son Tejas Thackeray, who was part of the research team. "This

new species is named after researcher Tejas Thackeray for his contributions towards the studies on freshwater crabs in India... and his strong and unconditional support towards taxonomy of less charismatic species," said Dr Varad Giri, director, Foundation for Biodiversity Conservation, who led the study. ENS

EAST

Manipur cabinet discusses legalisation of cannabis

Imphal: The Manipur cabinet on Thursday discussed the legalised plantation of cannabis for medicinal and industrial purposes. While the meeting remained inconclusive, the matter has been deferred for the next cabinet meeting. Government spokesperson Th Radheshyam Singh said the cabinet minutely discussed the policies being adopted by

other states that have legalised the plantation of cannabis. However, a concrete decision would be taken only after due consultation with experts and the public, he said. Last week, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh had announced that his government is looking at the legalisation of cannabis to help boost the revenue generation of the state. ENS

SOUTH

Andhra govt to introduce green tax, ban single-use plastics

Hyderabad: The Andhra Pradesh government is set to introduce a hefty green tax on polluting industries, and has taken steps to completely ban single-use plastics in the state. Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, at a review meeting of the Forest and Environment Department on Thursday, said industries

which pollute and generate a lot of waste should pay a green tax which will be used to protect the environment. He said his government will crack the whip on pollutants, and directed the officials to prepare a proposal within one month to promote the protection of environment and the prevention of pollution. ENS

17 killed, 6 missing as rain lashes Pune district



IMD termed the rainfall 'intense' but moderate. Pavan Khengre

reported during the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday as 'intense' but of moderate rainfall category (15 mm-64 mm). This rainfall was mainly triggered due to convective activity and was highly localised in nature.

Officials from the Maharashtra Electricity Distribution Company Ltd said that 1.25 lakh customers were affected due to the downpour as the power distribution system had suffered major damage. In

some areas, gas pipelines were also damaged and civic officials said the water supply system in parts of the city was affected.

Pune District Collector Naval Kishore Ram said the families of those killed as well as other people affected by the rain will be provided relief as per the norms of the National Disaster Relief Fund. "The Model Code of Conduct, which is in force for the upcoming Assembly polls, will not affect the relief efforts," he said.

"There were two BSF vehicles going towards Baramulla... After the accident, angry locals set ablaze the BSF vehicle... The BSF personnel were rescued by their colleagues who were in the second vehicle," the police officer said, adding that the condition of the injured police official, who has been shifted to SKIMS hospital in Srinagar, is stated to be critical.

A senior BSF officer said, "We are trying to get more information about the damage to the BSF vehicle." He added that no BSF personnel were injured.

Tripura woman gangraped, dumped on road; six arrested

DEBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, SEPTEMBER 26

A 32-YEAR-OLD woman was allegedly abducted, gangraped and dumped on a road in Agartala in the early hours of Wednesday. Six of the nine accused were arrested on Thursday.

Police said the woman was abducted by an autorickshaw driver on Tuesday night when she was on her way back from a hospital, where she had gone for the treatment of her child. She was allegedly moved to a van enroute and gangraped by nine people, including the driver, before being dumped on a road around 11.30 pm. She was found by passersby in a near-unconscious state on Wednesday morning.

A police officer said the six arrested accused have been charged with rape and criminal conspiracy. "The victim's husband has lodged a complaint against nine persons for allegedly kidnapping and raping her... A manhunt is going on for the others. The detainees will be produced before the Chief Judicial Magistrate's court today," the officer said.

The six accused, including two juveniles, were produced before a local court on Thursday evening. The juvenile detainees were referred to the state juvenile board while the remaining

four were sent to six-day judicial custody.

All the detainees would be produced before the court on October 1, Assistant Public Prosecutor in-charge Bidyut Sutradhar said.

"The woman is undergoing treatment at a hospital. She is now stable," the police said.

The autorickshaw driver was known to the victims, the woman's family said. The victim's husband claimed it took him more than an hour to get the police to register a complaint. However, West Tripura SP Ajit Pratap Singh denied the allegation.

The incident has triggered widespread outrage in Tripura with the Opposition and women rights organisations demanding strict punishment for the culprits.

Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb is learnt to have told the DGP to take necessary steps to arrest all culprits at the earliest.

Congress leader Subal Bhownik alleged that a BJP legislator tried to discourage police from registering a complaint.

Barnali Goswami, chairperson of the Tripura Commission for Women, said a TCV delegation from registering the victim at the hospital. She demanded capital punishment for the culprits.

Tripura Human Rights Organisation chief Purushottam Roy Barman said, "This incident reminds of Delhi's Nirbhaya case."

Kerala girl raped by father, molested by his friends

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOCHE, SEPTEMBER 26

A 12-YEAR-OLD girl was raped by her father and molested by her father's friends, who used to come home to drink with the father. As per her statement, 20 to 30 persons had molested her over the past two years.

However, she has not told police that she was raped by her father's friends.

Police said, three persons, including the girl's father, have been arrested since the incident came to the fore. The IO said police are trying to identify the other accused.

Haryana Cong MLA's election declared void

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 26

THE PUNJAB and Haryana High Court has declared as void the election of Haryana Congress MLA Jai Tirath Dahiya, who had won the Rai constituency by just three votes in 2014.

The verdict comes at the fag end of Dahiya's term, as the Election Commission has already announced that the state Assembly polls will be held on October 21.

In the judgment copy released Wednesday, a bench of Justice Harinder Singh Sidhu said that nine void votes were cast in favour of Dahiya and two void votes were cast in favour of the petitioner Inderjit, the losing INLD candidate. "After the deduction of the void votes from their tally, the void votes polled by the returned candidate are 36,694 and the votes polled by the petitioner (Inderjit) are 36,698. Resultantly, the petitioner has polled more votes than the respondent (Dahiya)," the verdict read.

Cops: Hindutva group, BJP disrupt film shooting over rumours of Tipu biopic

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 26

A GROUP of Hindutva activists allegedly disrupted the shooting of action-comedy film *Sultan* in Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, following reports that the movie was about Tipu Sultan's life.

The film was being shot near an Archaeological Survey of India-protected site on Tuesday night when members of the Hindu Munnani and BJP arrived on the location and allegedly raised slogans against Tipu Sultan and Tamil actor Karthi, assuming that the latter was playing the role of the erstwhile ruler of Mysore who Hindu groups have tried to project as a Muslim bigot.

There were no damages, but the shooting was disrupted, according to a police officer in Dindigul. "They were in the final stage of shooting. Local cadres of Hindu Munnani and BJP organised and marched to the location near a site protected by the ASI. They organised and marched

the area believing a news report that the movie's name was not *Sultan* but 'Tipu Sultan'. As the mob refused to leave the area even after they were briefed about the original story, the film crew left the place with all valuable equipment," the officer said.

The producer, S R Prabhu's Dream Warrior Pictures, issued a statement on Thursday clarifying that the movie has nothing to do with Tipu Sultan. "Incidents of several smaller outbreaks targeting the movie industry is seemingly increasing these days. There is a censor board to decide what not to be shown in a movie. Any decision about what to be shown within the censor board norms goes to the filmmaker... We condemn those groups who pose hindrance to the making of movies," it said.

Talking to *The Indian Express*, Prabhu said it was a locally organised group who protested without any clue about the film's plot.

Leaders of the BJP and Hindu Munnani were not available for comment.

DISCOVERY AT ARCHAEOLOGY SITE PUSHES BACK HISTORY OF LITERACY IN SOUTH INDIA

Tamil Nadu govt to step up research, excavations at Keeladi

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 26

A WEEK after a report published by the Tamil Nadu State Archaeology Department detailed evidence that the Sangam era of South India and the Tamil Brahmi script dated back to the 6th century BCE, the state government has decided to strike a tripartite agreement with the Madurai Kamaraj University and Harvard University to step up research and excavations at Keeladi in Sivagangai district.

The September 19 report, titled 'Keeladi-An Urban Settlement of Sangam Age on the Banks of River Vaigai', pushes back the history of literacy in South India from the previously assumed 3rd century BCE. It



Samples of potsherds collected from the Keeladi archaeology site. Courtesy: Tamil Nadu State Archaeology Department

them for advanced studies at Keeladi. A memorandum of understanding in this regard will be signed soon. The university said it will also continue excavations

at the sites at Mannalur and Konthagai, and the findings will be scientifically ascertained with the help of an advanced laboratory at Harvard University.

K Rajan, a prominent scholar who teach archaeology at Puducherry Central University, told *The Indian Express*, "Now we have a total of 20 samples that go back to the 6th century BCE to prove that we had a writing system in South India during the period. Even though we couldn't establish a direct link to the Indus Valley Civilisation, the graffiti marks among these samples from Keeladi indicates that we may be inching towards establishing a link in the next few years. In South India, we have had an Iron Age between 2000 BCE to 600 BCE. So it is a hypothesis that the graffiti marks we found from the region may have links to the Indus Valley period."

The report states that there were 56 Tamil Brahmi-inscribed potsherds from Keeladi.

According to T Udhayachandran, the commissioner of the state archaeology department, many of these letters were engraved by the owners after purchasing the pots, and not while they were being made.

"This indicates a high literacy of the contemporary society that lived in the 6th century BCE in this region," Udhayachandran said.

He said many other items they excavated from Keeladi such as spindle whorls, sharply pin-pointed bone tip tools used for design creations, hanging stones of the yarn, terracotta spheres and even copper needles attest the various stages of weaving industry from spinning, yarning, looming and weaving in that period with an active industrial activity in the area.

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कार्यालय अधिकारी अधिकारी, उत्तर प्रदेश, प्रधान कार्यालय 6-राजा प्रताप मार्ग, लखनऊ-226001

पत्रांक-04/1009/072-0001/Tender

Notice/PPRBD/19 दिनांक-25.09.2019

E-RFP NOTICE

U.P. Jal Nigam, Lucknow e-tender notice are invited on two bid system for "Request for Proposals (RFP) for Selection and Appointment of Consultant for Project Management and Construction Supervision Services for Various Ongoing Water Supply & Sewerage Projects in Different Urban Local Bodies of Ayodhya, Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Prayagraj and Varanasi Zones of U.P. Jal Nigam in The State of Uttar Pradesh". RFP document shall be available at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Interested Bidder/Consultant may view & download RFP document and upload their proposal, duly filled online as per schedule given below:- Date for (i) Start date for RFP document download : 26.09.2019. (ii) Pre-bid conference: 04.10.2019 at 12:00 Hrs. (iii) Last date for online submission of proposal: 22.10.2019 at 17:00 Hrs. (iv) Last date for physical submission of proposal: 24.10.2019 at 17:00 Hrs. (v) Opening of technical proposal: 25.10.2019 at 12:00 Hrs.

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	CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KOKRAJHAR Described to be University, MHRD, Govt. of India Kokrajhar, 783370, Assam 783370
NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
CITK/Mechanical Engg. Equip/138/2019/580 Dated: 24.09.2019	
Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the experienced & reputed suppliers/firms (i) for supply and installation of Lab Equipment for the Department of Mechanical Engineering (Green Energy).	
For further details please visit: www.cit.ac.in	
Sd/- Registrar, CIT Kokrajhar	

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice

Mr.DEN/II/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. 140-DRM-MB-19-20 closing date 22.10.2019 16:00 hrs. **Name of work :** General annual repair work of service building/staff quarters from Balamau (Including)-Sitalpur City (Excluding)-ON (Excluding) including wood and road works for 2019-20 in the section of SSE/Works/Balamau under ADEN/HRI-II (Ind Time). **Tender closing date/time:** 22.10.2019 16:00. **Cost of work :** Re 63,47,106.65 **Earliest Money:** Re 1,27,00,000. **Tender Cost :** Rs.5000.00. **Bidding start date :** 08.10.2019 and **Period of Completion :** 12 Months. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers and not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. For detail information please log into www.ireps.gov.in Contractors are allowed to make payments against this towards tender documents cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc are not allowed. **Tender No. 140-DRM-MB-19-20 Dated : 23.09.2019** 3099/19

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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PUNE
An Autonomous Institution of Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India
Dr. Homi Bhabha Road, Pune - 411 008 | www.iiserpune.ac.in

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SETTING UP OF AN ELECTRON MICROSCOPY FACILITY AT IISER PUNE

A Pre-Indefinite conference is proposed to be held on 12th October, 2019 Time 10.30 AM at IISER Pune with the prospective manufacturers, their authorized channel partners or agents / suppliers and system integrators to discuss with the Technical Committee on the aspects of utility, technology, feature, literature, design, technical parameters, clientele and other related issues of the Electron Microscopy Facility based equipment as part of Pune Bio Cluster.

For further details please visit our website <http://www.iiserpune.ac.in/links/tender-notices-and-eoi>

Advt. No: IISER/S&P/05/2019 Dated 26/09/2019

Director

NORTHERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM-1

Sub: Notice inviting Application for Empannelment/Registration of Siding consultant for Providing Consultancy Service of Railway Sidings Development Project. Ref: This office letter of Notice No. 7-W/0/Constants/19-20 dated 13.08.2019. In reference above subject, Notice No. dated 13.08.2019 Clause No. 6 General Terms of Bidding may be read as under: In order to provide fair and equal opportunity to all eligible Applicants, the process for renewal/fresh registration shall be done regularly at least once in a year. Date of consideration of empanelment shall be posted in website separately. The constants already enlisted with NR approximately by the end of June, whose currency is expiring in different months in the intervening period and up to March 2020 are also advised to apply for registration. No adjustment in the empanelment fees shall be made towards the unfilled portion of the registration period on this account. All terms & conditions are unaltered.

3090/19

7-W/0/0/Constants/19-20 Dated 25.09.2019.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

रेल यात्रा के दोसरा सिकायत हेतु 138 पर एवं सुरक्षा हेतु 182 पर सम्पर्क करें

Rajasthan to remove 'Harijan' word from govt school names

Jaipur: The Rajasthan education department has ordered the removal of the word 'Harijan' from the names of all government schools in the state. In an order issued on September 24, the department ordered officials to integrate a list of all such schools and to send proposals for renaming them within three days. **ENS**

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

Electrical Department (TRO Branch), Jabalpur

E-NIT No.- JBP/TRO/Tender/2019-20 date: 23/09/2019

For and on behalf of the president of India, Sr. Divl. Elect. Engg. (TRO), W.C.Rly, Jabalpur invited e-tender for the following work:

(1) **Name of work:** Provision of box boys for Loading and Unloading of line boxes of Loco pilots and guards at SGO & line boxes of Loco pilots at NKI station and yards to & fro from lobby (box room) to Diesel/ AC engine/ coach / brake van including shifting to running room/lobby (box room) or any other crew changing point or between these points and as per administration requirement from 00.00 hrs. to 24.00 hrs. on all days of the week including Sundays and Holidays for a period of 731 days.

(2) **Place of work:** New Katni Junction & Sagar. (3) **Completion Period:** 731 Days. (4) **Tender Value (Cost of the work):** Rs. 82,260,692/- (Including GST), (5) **Earliest Money:** Rs. 1,64,300/-, (6) **Tender Fee:** Rs. 5000/-, (7) **Date & time for submission/ opening of tender:** 21/10/19 (15.00 hrs.)/ 21/10/19 (After 15.00 hrs.), (8) **Website address:** <https://www.ireps.gov.in>, (9) Complete details of e-tender notice available on the above website and also placed on notice board of the Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRO)'s office, West Central Railway, Jabalpur.

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRO, WCR, Jabalpur

रेल यात्रा के दोसरा सिकायत हेतु 138 पर एवं सुरक्षा हेतु 182 पर सम्पर्क करें

3099/19

Serving Customers With A Smile

रेल यात्रा के दोसरा सिकायत हेतु 138 पर एवं सुरक्षा हेतु 182 पर सम्पर्क करें

3107/19

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रेल यात्रा के दोसरा सिकायत हेतु 138 पर एवं सुरक्षा हेतु 182 पर सम्पर्क करें

3107/19

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SC questions Idgah claim by mosque side

ANANTHAKRISHNANG
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

THE SUPREME Court on Thursday questioned the mosque side in the Ayodhya case over its claim that a wall discovered during excavations by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) at the disputed site was part of an Idgah, and wondered why it had not raised such a claim in its plaint.

Justice Bhushan said "but you did not say so in the plaint", and asked "can you be allowed to develop your case on evidence?"

Arora replied that there was no contention about any pre-existing structure beneath the ground at the time it filed its plaint. She added that the contention of the Hindu side that the wall was part of the temple was only an inference and that being the case, an alternate inference that it may have been part of an Idgah was also possible.

Intervening, senior advocate C S Vaidyanathan, appearing for the deity Ramlalla, pointed out that the wall was older than the 12th century and that part of it was demolished in the 12th century and rebuilt some years later.

Justice Bhushan's remarks



Justice Nazeer also questioned the claim that the wall was part of an Idgah and asked if it was so, where was the portion for the Imam to sit.

On Wednesday, the bench had told Arora that she should have taken steps before the trial court to summon the author of the ASI report and examine him if she had problems with its contents.

Arguing on this aspect on Thursday, senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan said there was no dispute on the authorship of the report or its authenticity. The only question was whether the summary was drawn up as required through

consultation among team members, he said.

The bench told him that Arora could argue on whether the ASI team had answered the questions referred to it, whether it had exceeded its brief and on the contradictions if any.

On Wednesday, Arora had disputed the authorship of the summary chapter of the report, saying it had not been attributed to anyone.

But Dhavan on Thursday said, "Yesterday's discussion on summary was absolutely futile. It only goes to authorship of the report and not its contents. Nobody can say it is not authentic," adding, "authorship can't be questioned".

Arora contended that the pillar bases found by the ASI were in different layers of soil and this showed they were erected in different time periods. She asked how pillars made in different periods could support one massive structure as concluded by the ASI.

Joining issue, Justice Chandrachud said instead of

drawing adverse conclusions, these questions should have been put to experts at the trial stage.

As Arora sought to question the basis of the ASI's claims, the CJI remarked, "Why ask us? You should have asked the expert who would have given the answer."

Arora said there were contradictions in the report as the ASI's experts had dated some of the recoveries to different periods. She also said the ASI had failed to keep a record of animal bones recovered from the site or send them for carbon dating. Animal remains would have been indicative of Islamic influences or animal sacrifices by others, she said.

Meanwhile, the bench told the parties that it will not give them any extra day beyond October 18 to conclude arguments. The CJI said that "considering what you have given us, it will be miraculous if we can give judgment" within the remaining time.

The CJI is set to retire on November 17.

Kerala govt begins drive to identify CRZ violations

Power, water to four apartments to be demolished snapped

SHAJU PHILIP
KOCHI, SEPTEMBER 26

FOLLOWING THE Supreme Court order to demolish four apartments constructed in violation of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms at Maradu, the Kerala government has started a statewide exercise to look into all constructions which don't comply with CRZ norms.

While ordering demolition of the apartments, the court had directed Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority (KCZMA) to put on record how many such constructions existed and what course of action it proposed against such violators.

According to Additional Chief Secretary (local self-government) T K Jose, the exercise to identify CRZ violations is on. "We do not have clear data on CRZ violations across Kerala. We have to examine the entire coast and areas covered by backwaters."

He said 800 CRZ violations are suspected in Maradu municipality. "An examination of 325 buildings has revealed that only eight buildings violated norms. These eight are besides the four complexes (which the Supreme Court has ordered to be demolished). Now, we have to examine 475 more constructions in Maradu municipality to ascertain if they violated CRZ norms.

Officials at KCZMA said the authority does not have statewide data on constructions which violated CRZ norms. "When the authority was under science and technology department, until 2017, an examination had revealed 65 violations by resorts and apartments across Kerala. This list was prepared to the effect of forming the new board. Currently, officials are conducting only a preliminary examination," a source said.

Meanwhile, with the Supreme Court set to review action taken to demolish the apartments, the state government has toughened its stand. On Thursday, power and water supply to the four complexes, which have 343 units, were snapped. The move is part of a four-month action plan to demolish the apartments.

As per the action plan, the government wants residents to vacate the flats between September 29 and October 3. The agency for the demolition would be identified before October 9 and the first phase is slated to begin on October 11. Ernakulam district collector



After the authorities cut power supply to the Maradu flats

court cases for alleged violations. We are yet to have a full-fledged examination," an official said.

The delay in constituting the KCZMA board has also hampered identification of CRZ violations. The board's term expired in June and the state government sent a proposal for the new board to the Union Ministry of Environment and Forest. "The state government has sent the proposal. But the Union Ministry has to issue the notification to the effect of forming the new board. Currently, officials are conducting only a preliminary examination," a source said.

"We are being treated like terrorists. We are pleading with the government and Supreme Court to be humane. We invested our hard-earned money in these apartments. We cannot suffer these flats being razed. Several aged, indisposed and children are living here. Many are taking treatment at nearby hospitals on a daily basis. Does anyone think about their fate?" asked Sajitha Pillai, one of the residents.

Another resident Arun Kumar said, "We are ready to die under the debris of this flats. The Supreme Court linked the issue to last year's flood. But, nobody knows these flats had then offered shelter to the flood-affected."

Student files bail plea, kin seek rape charge against Chinmayanand

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 26

A DAY after the law student who accused former BJP minister Chinmayanand of rape and sexual harassment was arrested in a case of extortion filed by the BJP leader's lawyers, the 23-year-old student moved a bail application in the sessions court on Thursday.

The student's lawyer moved the plea after a lower court declared her anticipatory bail plea "infructuous" following her arrest by the SIT probing the sexual assault and the extortion threat case.

The sessions court will hear the bail plea on Monday. The same day it will hear the bail petition of Chinmayanand, who was arrested last week, said government counsel Anuj Kumar.

The woman's family has again demanded the SIT to press rape charge against Chinmayanand. While the student had accused the former BJP MP of raping her, the SIT booked him under IPC sections 354 D (stalking), 342 (wrongful confinement), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 376 C, which is usually applied in cases where a person abuses his position to "induce or seduce" a woman under his charge to have "sexual intercourse not amounting to the offence of rape".

"The SIT is trying to highlight only the extortion case so that our demand to lodge a fresh FIR with the rape charge does not get much importance... It is shameful that the SIT is helping the rape accused instead of the victim. We will fight the case despite all pressure from state government and its agencies," said the student's brother.

Meanwhile, a delegation of All India Democratic Women Association, led by CPM leaders Brinda Karat and Subhasini Ali, reached Shahjahanpur jail and met the student. Speaking to mediapersons, Karat said the student appeared "frightened and terrified". "The accused (Chinmayanand) is a very powerful person and the victim belongs to an ordinary family. She has displayed immense courage by complaining."

The delegation also submitted a memorandum to SIT chief Naveen Arora, demanding rape charge against Chinmayanand on the basis of student's statement given to Delhi Police.

AIDWA members alleged that the government machinery was being used to "save Chinmayanand" and accused the SIT of harassing the victim and her family in an attempt to break their spirit. The police have distorted the investigation and are trying to shield Chinmayanand by not booking him for rape, the delegation of AIDWA said.

"The SIT is trying to highlight



NAVY TO GET MORE MUSCLE

The second Kalvari class submarine which will be inducted by the Navy on Saturday in Mumbai. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will commission the indigenously built submarine which will be known as INS Khanderi. It has been built by Mazgaon Dock Limited. Pradip Das

Research by scientific centres will help India become \$5 tn economy: Kovind

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

PRESIDENT RAM Nath Kovind on Thursday said scientific institutions in the country and their research is the key to help India meet its 2025 goal of achieving a \$5 trillion economy.

Speaking at the 78th Foundation Day of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Kovind said, "We have set ourselves a goal of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2025. We are committed to achieving sustainable development goals, we also wish to play our role in addressing global concerns such as climate change. To a great extent, our success in meeting these challenges would depend on our ability to find creative solutions based on scientific research."

Noting that uncertainty and risks are inherent to scientific research and entrepreneurship, the President said, "I urge you to embrace that uncertainty and take that calculated risk. There lies the possibility of developing truly transformative technology that can help fulfill our goals as a nation, as humanity and as a planet."

Kovind stressed upon the need for more girls and women to enter the scientific arena.

Akshardham Temple attack: Yasin Bhat granted bail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 26

A SPECIAL Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) court in Ahmedabad on Wednesday granted bail to Yasin Bhat, alleged to be the prime conspirator of the 2002 Akshardham Temple attack. Bhat was arrested by the Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) on July 26 from Jammu & Kashmir.

Seeking relief on grounds of parity, Bhat's lawyer I D Pathan submitted that co-accused Abdulrashid Sulemanbhai Ajmeri

Bhat's lawyer had submitted before the court of special designated judge MK Dave that the accused was arrested at a belated stage and much after Supreme Court acquitted six accused in May 2014. The special POTA court acquitted two more accused after the apex court order.

Seeking relief on grounds of parity, Bhat's lawyer I D Pathan submitted that co-accused Abdulrashid Sulemanbhai Ajmeri

and Mohammad Farooq Mohammad Hanif Shaikh, both of

who were belatedly arrested, were granted bail in December 2017 and in January this year by the special POTA court. Another ground cited was that following Bhat's arrest, there has been no discovery or recovery of any incriminating material.

The public prosecutor conceded that the principal perpetrators of the offence were given a

clean chit by the Supreme Court and did not oppose the submissions by Bhat's counsel. Granting bail to Bhat, the court asked him not to leave Ahmedabad city without prior permission of the court.

Bhat was lodged at Sabarmati Central Jail on judicial custody since July 27. The 2002 FIR charged him under IPC sections related to conspiracy and murder, among others. He was also charged under the Arms Act, the Explosive

Substances Act, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002 and the Bombay Police Act.

Two armed terrorists attacked Akshardham Temple in Gandhinagar on September 24, 2002 and killed 33 people, including an NSG commando and two Gujarat police officers. The terrorists, identified as Ashraf Ali Mohammed Farooq and Murtaza Hafiz Yasin, were gunned down by NSG commandos.

GAGANYAAN MISSION

ISRO chief: 12 astronauts to visit Russia for training

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 26

THE 12 Indian astronauts who are in the process of being selected for Gaganyaan — India's manned mission to space — will be sent to Russia for training in about a month, K Sivan, chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), said during a visit to the Space Applications Centre (SAC) in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

"The process of selecting astronauts is going on. They will be going to Russia for training in about a month... We are planning to select 12 astronauts and they will go to Russia. The Russians will select four from this and then the selected four astronauts will un-

REPORT CARD ON CHILD SURVIVAL

World is getting better... in India there are gaps: Bill Gates

ABANTIKI GHOSH
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 26

VELLORE IN Tamil Nadu, with 100 per cent institutional deliveries and "98 of 100 children likely to see their fifth birthday", and Badan in UP with 58.1 per cent institutional births represent two extremes of the developing world.

This was cited by Microsoft co-founder and philanthropist Bill Gates — with data from National Family Health Survey 4 — as he presented the report card on child survival at the annual Goalkeepers event on Wednesday.

"(Statistics show) in 99% dis-

tricts the situation has improved, the world is getting better even in the toughest places for child survival... in India, which is the world's biggest developing country, there are gaps. In Vellore, the education and child survival figures are the same as in a rich country with 98 of 100 children likely to see their fifth birthday and most of them likely to get a high school education. (On the other hand) is Badan in Uttar Pradesh, where 10% children born do not live beyond their fifth birthday and many of them do not get an education past primary school. India is not on track to achieve SDGs but Vellore will achieve them 10 years

in advance," he said.

Goalkeepers is the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's campaign to accelerate progress towards the SDGs. By sharing stories and data behind Global Goals, the foundation hopes to inspire a new generation of leaders, who raise awareness of progress, hold leaders accountable and drive action to achieve the Global Goals.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the Global Goalkeeper award for the Swachh Bharat Mission.

(The author was in New York on the invitation of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)



This #DaanUtsav, set up a Wish Tree in your office, college, school or apartment lobby, and fulfil wishes sourced from a local NGO.

Visit www.daanutsav.org OR write to daanutsav@gmail.com



WHO PAYS?

RBI action on PMC amounts to penalising depositors. Regulatory framework governing cooperative banking needs relook

ON TUESDAY, THE Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed curbs on the activities of the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC) for a period of six months. The decision came after the central bank discovered certain irregularities in the bank, including the under-reporting of non-performing assets (NPAs). The RBI had initially allowed depositors to withdraw only Rs 1,000 over a six-month period. But, on Thursday, following public outcry and panic responses, it revised this limit upwards to Rs 10,000, observing that with this relaxation, more than 60 per cent of depositors would be able to withdraw their entire account balance. While the restrictions imposed by the regulator, under section 35A of the banking Regulation Act, are aimed at safeguarding depositors' interest, and preventing a run on the bank, such moves, which are seen as penalising depositors, can end up having the opposite effect, denting trust in cooperative banks and increasing the risk of a contagion.

Reportedly, the crux of the problem is the bank's exposure to a real estate firm, which itself is currently undergoing insolvency proceedings. But, the bank's financials for the year ended March 2019 do not provide any indication of financial stress. On its part, the regulator has appointed J B Bhoria, a retired senior RBI official, as administrator of the bank. A forensic audit could shed light on its asset-liability mismatch. It could reveal the true extent of the problem — whether it's a question of just one account or whether there are larger concerns over the bank's financial position or its governance structure, as is the case in many of these banks. If the review suggests that the bank is better health than what is believed, it could open the window for the RBI to further ease the withdrawal limits. Alternatively, the RBI could also explore the option of merging PMC with another healthy cooperative bank to avoid any instability, as it has done so in the past.

This episode, once again, raises questions on not only the governance structures at these cooperative banks, but also on their supervision. Cooperative banks are under joint supervision of the RBI and states. And while the RBI has signed MoUs with state governments, unless state governments cooperate in effecting regulations, supervision is likely to be ineffective. Clearly, there were no early warning signs of trouble in this case. Instances such as these are likely to raise calls for reviewing this regulatory framework and giving more powers to the RBI to oversee these entities. These need to be attended to. The RBI should also examine the long-term feasibility of their business models in light of the rapid technological changes in the financial sector. But the larger question over the absence of a framework for timely resolution of financial firms remains.

COP OUT

UP police's conduct in Swami Chinmayanand case raises serious questions. It will be watched

ON WEDNESDAY, A Supreme Court-mandated Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Uttar Pradesh police arrested the law student who accused former Union minister and BJP leader Swami Chinmayanand of repeatedly assaulting her over a period of one year. The arrest is based on an allegation of extortion by Chinmayanand's lawyer, and the charge itself emerged only after the accusations of rape and assault were made by the student on social media. The SIT has also acknowledged to the court that it has no record of any money being exchanged between the politician-turned-education entrepreneur and the victim. The UP police's conduct in such a high-profile case thus far raises disturbing questions of procedure and propriety.

The allegations against Chinmayanand were made on August 24, but it was only when a bench of the Supreme Court took suo motu cognisance of the matter a week later and ordered the UP government to set up an SIT that the investigation commenced. Why did the state police need a direction from the apex court to take action on a matter that is well within its provenance? The victim had also demanded that Chinmayanand, who heads the trust of the college where she studies, be charged with rape — the SIT has charged him with "misusing authority for sexual intercourse" or "sexual intercourse not amounting to rape", which carry a lesser sentence than a rape charge. The arrest on the basis of the accusation made by Chinmayanand's counsel also raises questions over the prosecutorial viability of the original rape case. Her father and brother have alleged that they are being pressured and intimidated to stop pursuing the case against Chinmayanand.

On Tuesday, a day before the student was arrested, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had spoken of women's rights and welfare while interacting with women who had been victims of triple talaq. He also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "honouring the dignity of women". Indeed, "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" has been a slogan of the ruling party that has resonated across the country. The UP police, which has a controversial record of being high-handed — it has been accused of staging encounters — must live up to that slogan. The way it handles the case against Chinmayanand, as well as how it proceeds against the young woman who accused him, will be closely watched.

BEING GRETA

Accolades to Greta Thunberg recognise moral authority of her generation. But will she be another icon appropriated?

THE MORE THINGS change, the more they remain the same in climate change parleys. In the past 30 years, the world has had two treaties to check global warming, the tribe of climate deniers seems to have shrunk — the US president notwithstanding — and GHG is almost universally accepted as a bad word. Yet, there is a sameness to global climate negotiations. Almost every year, at UNFCCC meets, negotiators run into overtime. But every IPCC report testifies to an increase in the direness quotient. It has taken a 16-year-old to call a spade a spade. "You have stolen my dreams and childhood with your empty words," the young Swedish activist Greta Thunberg excoriated the high-level audience gathered for the UN Climate Action Summit in New York.

It's in the fitness of things that the inertia in environmental diplomacy has been called out by a representative of the generation that is likely to be worst affected if the world heats up more than 2°C of its current temperature. "You come to us young people for hope. How dare you?" Thunberg said. And though she was addressing the who's who of world politics, the "you" in her speech seemed to be directed at the generation that had failed her while the association between "us" and her peers was unmistakable.

Thunberg is not the only young protestor. From Mexico City to Djakarta, Nairobi to Seattle and Kampala to Dhaka, children and teenagers have missed classes and taken to the streets to demand that the global leaders do more to avert climate change. In March, more than a million children went on strike against the international community's weak response to global warming. And last week, the ranks of protestors had swelled to nearly 4 million. The world has recognised the moral authority of Thunberg's generation by awarding the Swedish teenager the Right to Livelihood Award. A caveat though: Modern society has an uncanny knack to appropriate iconic dissenters while going on with business-as-usual.

Why property rights matter

Economic growth requires protection from expropriation of property by individuals, State



MUDIT KAPOOR AND SHAMIKA RAVI

IN LIGHT OF the economic slowdown, it is important to note that long-term economic growth is a consequence of individual rights to private property, and its protection from expropriation from other individuals as well as the most powerful entity, the state itself. Nationalisation policies have held India back from her true economic potential and robbed hundreds of millions of people of the prosperity they deserved long ago. Nationalisation created a complex bureaucracy — a tyranny without a tyrant — eventually leading to an unparalleled economic crisis in the 1990s, compelling us to undertake courageous economic reforms.

Reform was mostly the reduction of bureaucratic red tape of "licence raj", making it easier for private players to enter and exit markets. This led to unprecedented economic growth, the creation of a middle class, and significant poverty reduction. These reforms got a further shot in the arm under Atal Bihari Vajpayee with the disinvestment drive. For example, the telecom and energy sectors that were plagued by shortages for decades were partially privatised and very soon turned a surplus, boosting the economy and laying the foundation for a "digital economy" in modern India. This was evidence that nationalisation and socialism were not the answers to India's poverty and social problems.

The spectre of socialism and nationalisation, however, rose once again in 2012-13 when the then finance minister amended the Income Tax Act of 1961 with retrospective effect to undo the Supreme Court judgement in the Vodafone tax case. The FM articulated in an interview that the Supreme Court did this primarily due to their concern for its effect on foreign direct investment. The former FM, however, missed an important point: The primary issue was not whether FDI would be discouraged but, more fundamentally, whether private property is protected from expropriation by the state.

In a mature democracy, rights of an individual vis-à-vis the state are protected by an

independent judiciary. This act of undoing a Supreme Court judgment was an assault on the individual right to private property. The Vodafone tax case went through the entire judicial process that is available to an ordinary citizen of the country. In its final verdict, the Court agreed that tax planning by the firm was legitimate and within the framework of the law. The Court, while making a distinction between tax avoidance and tax evasion, made the following observation: "Every person is entitled so to arrange his affairs as to avoid taxation, but the arrangement must be real and genuine and not a sham or make-believe." Even though it became evident that the existing Income Tax Act of 1961 had a lacuna which needed to be fixed, and the sovereign had the right to do so, but to fix it retrospectively was deeply problematic. Applying the law prospectively would have been a reform but applying it retrospectively was to undermine the Court and was a blow to the independence of institutions that check the power of the state.

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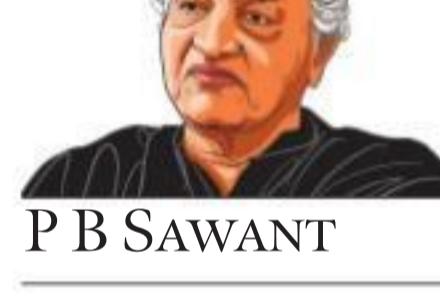
other stakeholders had significant exposure to this sector. Once again, the message was loud and clear that property rights of individuals are not well protected in India.

The coal allocation issue was not black and white, each case merited careful consideration by the Court in terms of its impact on various stakeholders who were not guilty of the crime committed by others. Perhaps, former US Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia was right when he wrote that "In the grand scheme of things, whether the right party won was secondary. Famous old cases are famous, you see, not because they come out right, but because the rule of law they announced was the intelligent one. Common-law courts performed two functions: One was to apply the law to the facts, but the second function, and the more important one, was to make the law." The law that got made that day was that individual property rights are not well protected in India.

These are important lessons to be learnt. In the last five years, several fiscal and monetary policy measures have been taken to arrest the decline in private investments. Long-term economic growth requires fundamental assurance to individuals that their private property is protected from expropriation by other individuals, the government and also the courts themselves. Large parts of the Indian economy remain informal — not due to tax rates or high cost of formalisation — but because of mistrust in institutions and fear of expropriation by them.

Democracy is expected to give us an edge over autocratic China in terms of privatisation and long-term growth. The enigma of our times is that China, with no tradition of free and fair elections and independent judiciary, has managed to provide economic freedom and protection to private property leading to unprecedented economic prosperity.

Kapoor is associate professor ISI Delhi. Ravi is research director, Brookings India



P B SAWANT

DEAR COMPATRIOTS,

Hoping that by this time, the fever of the so-called victory over the alleged abrogation of Article 370 created by the government has subsided at least by some degrees, I venture to draw your attention to the other side of the picture which is the truth and reality.

At the very outset, let me make it clear that neither Pakistan nor any other country has any right to meddle in this matter. Pakistan has not even a moral right to do so, since it has forcibly occupied a sizeable part of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. This is a matter strictly between the Kashmiris and the rest of Indians.

The J&K state was never a part of this country, before Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession on March 17, 1948, which gave this country a legal access to that state for the first time. This Instrument of Accession was conditional and was given a constitutional status by incorporating it with the conditions, in Article 370 of our Constitution, when the Constitution was in the making. What is more, sub-clause 3 of the Article 370 makes it abundantly clear that the provisions of the said Article will not cease to be operative or modified without the previous recommendation of the Constituent Assembly of the J&K state. This process of amendment of Article 370 is special to the said Article, and hence prevails over Article 368 of the Constitution, which is the general power of amendment of the Constitution. The non-obstante clause with which the Article begins also makes that clear. It should, therefore,

THE TRUTH ABOUT J&K

Abrogation of Article 370 is illegal, the ongoing lockdown unsustainable

To our brothers and sisters in Kashmir, we should appeal not to mistake the government for the people of this country. They should believe in our goodwill and fraternity for them, notwithstanding the damage done to it by the present misadventure of our government. Our Kashmiri friends should remember that their destiny lies with this country, which has proved its democratic credentials, by and large.

fore, be clear to all that when the present government and Parliament purported to declare that the said Article shall not be operative, they did not follow the procedure laid down in Article 370. Hence, the said Article remains in our Constitution intact without any harm to it. The propaganda carried out by the government that the said Article has been repealed is, therefore, obviously misleading.

Much irresponsible comment is being made on the temporary status of Article 370, without realising that the Article is changeable, unlike other provisions of the Constitution, on the previous recommendation of the Constituent Assembly of J&K state, acted upon by the President of India.

Those who clamour for the abrogation of Article 370 unilaterally by this government, forget the elementary fact that this country got legal right to enter the state only because of the conditional political pact of accession. If the Article is abrogated unilaterally, assuming the action is valid, the legal right of this country to remain in J&K will be jeopardised. It is unfortunate that this government, for reasons best known to it, has indulged in the present misadventure which is bound to boomerang. We should realise that with all the leaders of the Kashmiris under house arrest, the communications closed, seething discontent of the people fermenting every hour, the people of Kashmir cannot be suppressed with force for long. Both history and common sense dictate against it.

There is still a scope for an amicable political settlement, by which the affection of

the Kashmiris can be won. For this, however, our government has to shed its macho image and come out with realistic measures to win the confidence and trust of the Kashmiris.

To our brothers and sisters in Kashmir, we should appeal not to mistake the government for the people of this country. They should believe in our goodwill and fraternity for them, notwithstanding the damage done to them by the present misadventure of our government. Our Kashmiri friends should remember that their destiny lies with this country, which has proved its democratic credentials, by and large.

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We consider Kashmiris as our integral part. Their life and culture are a precious jewel in the crown of our cosmopolitan culture. There are strong affinities between us, and we love and respect them as our brothers and sisters. They have nothing to fear or lose, and everything to gain being with us. Let bygones be bygones, and let us start a new chapter in our relationship which should be permanent and inefaceable.

The writer is a former judge of the Supreme Court of India and former chairperson, Press Council of India



SEPTEMBER 27, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

LOK DAL FORMED

THE JANATA (S), the Socialist Party (Limay group) and the Odisha Janata Party formally merged into a new party called "Lok Dal". Charan Singh was elected its president and Raj Narain working president". The birth of the new party was, however, marked by a setback when H N Bahuguna, leader of the CFD faction, decided to keep out of it. His group had earlier decided to join the new party and had submitted to Charan Singh a 31-point programme for inclusion in its manifesto. It is learnt that Charan Singh was cool to Bahuguna's programme. This morning when the convention began, the CFD delegates were conspicuous by their absence.

So were many others, including Madhu Limaye, Karpoori Thakur, Biju Patnaik and S N Mishra, who, it turned out later, were busy persuading Bahuguna to join the convention.

ANTI-DEFECITION LAW

THE KASHMIR ASSEMBLY has passed the officially-sponsored Anti-Defection Bill. As soon as the Bill was passed, the entire Opposition staged a walk-out in protest. The Bill, which provides for an amendment in the Jammu and Kashmir Representation of the People Act, seeks to disqualify a member from membership of the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council if he voluntarily gives up the membership of the po-

itical party which had set him up as a candidate in an election. The Bill also provides for disqualifying a member if he votes or abstains from voting in the legislature contrary to a whip issued by such a political party.

CARTER ON CUBA

US PRESIDENT JIMMY Carter called Cuba a "puppet" of the Soviet Union and said that despite Soviet claims to the contrary, the Russian troops in Cuba were combat forces. Carter noted that Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko had tacitly denied that the Soviets in Cuba were combat forces. Carter also noted that if the status quo in Cuba does not change, he will take "appropriate action".

Exorcising third-degree

Torture is an endemic characteristic of Indian policing. A commitment to eradicating it requires the police force as a whole to have zero tolerance for the practice besides a specific anti-torture law



Maja Daruwala

THE HOME MINISTER'S recent pronouncement that the days of third-degree torture are gone is extraordinarily welcome. His announcement is as much a signal to the security forces to lay off this practice as it is an acknowledgment about something that everyone from the Supreme Court to the subalterns knows — that torture is an endemic characteristic of Indian policing.

Its presence is known, tolerated and even appreciated. Common Cause's recent large national-level survey on the Status of Policing in India affirms the force's easy camaraderie with violent means: Three out of five personnel believe there is nothing wrong with beating up criminals and four out of five think it's okay to bash them up to extract a confession. One in five even believes that killing dangerous criminals is better than a legal trial. These widely held attitudes show up how flimsy the orientation to working within the law is at training; how deep is the sub-culture of ferocious machismo; and how high the tolerance for illegality within the supervisory cadre is.

Most of all, these results show up how confident torturers are that no consequences will flow from even extreme acts of cruelty. For too long, supervisory officers within the security establishment have turned a blind eye to this everyday criminality within. It is hard to understand what *esprit de corps* or institutional interest is served by siding with criminality within, but all too often when instances of torture become known, a pocketful of ready excuses is pulled out to defend the indefensible — necessity, poor working conditions, no other means, mental tension, and pressure from within and without which the moral fibre of the police seems unable to resist. In fairness, there are voices from within that have spoken out against these practices, but they are voices in the wind.

True it is that the conditions in which policing is done are very under par and true it is that people who come into the police net are not always lovely people. They can be cruel, vicious and cunning and oftentimes, well-connected. But their criminality is not for the police to punish. Their limited brief is to bring alleged criminals before the courts, however slow and ponderous their process.

That is the law. Yet, given the years of acceptance, encouragement and practice, it is very likely that several generations of active policemen don't know that any assault and victimisation of anyone that is not entirely in self-defence is prohibited by law.

The home minister has suggested there may be amendments made to the criminal justice code. But he has not elaborated on these. At present, only a few sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Penal Code criminalise torture and custodial deaths. Experts and advocates feel that a few amendments tucked away in a large code are unlikely to have the visibility or effect that a comprehensive standalone law would. Governments of all hues have stoutly resisted doing this. India took its time to sign on the 1984 UN Convention Against Torture and signed on only in 1997 even though the absolute prohibition against the use of torture has long been established as a worldwide code or *jus cogens* that all countries have



CR Sasikumar

agreed to abide by. Signing means the country has, in principle, agreed to move forward to ensure that the practice of torture is entirely eliminated in its country. But ratification, the next step, obligates countries to pass laws at home that reflect the articles in the UN law. For 22 years, ratification has been left pending. In 2017, when it came to India's turn to be peer reviewed under the Universal Periodic Review process no less than 29 countries made 37 recommendations that India take urgent steps to stop torture.

The few sporadic attempts to pass a brand new law have come to naught. In 2010, a weak and much criticised Prevention of Torture Bill lapsed. In 2016, the Law Commission drafted its own even more diluted version. Meanwhile, the NHRC has consulted with civil society to make its own suggestions to the home ministry and there the matter lies — and has lain for a long time. In the meantime, Parliament has heard that for 2019, the NHRC has registered over 400 cases of alleged deaths in police custody and over 5,000 cases pertaining to deaths in judicial custody. For the past three years alone, these have regrettably clocked in at over a thousand a year.

A specific anti-torture law needs to be detailed, comprehensive and conform to international standards. It will need to have a broad descriptive definition of torture that includes mental torture; make it easier to prove as has been done in the case of custodial rape; fix responsibility not only on the perpetrator but on those who allow it to happen under their watch; make punishment more stringent especially where there has been sexual violence and ensure the state compensates and cares for its victims. It must also bypass the hurdles of Section 197 of the Criminal Procedure Code which requires permission before public servants can be prosecuted for actions done in the course of his duty. The Supreme Court has repeatedly made it clear that torture is no part of anyone's duty but still prosecution and convictions continue to be difficult.

New legislation is only a beginning. Actualisation will take much more. Exhortations will not stop torture. Having

A specific anti-torture law needs to be detailed, comprehensive and conform to international standards. It will need to have a broad descriptive definition of torture that includes mental torture; make it easier to prove as has been done in the case of custodial rape; fix responsibility not only on the perpetrator but on those who allow it to happen under their watch; make punishment more stringent especially where there has been sexual violence and ensure the state compensates and cares for its victims. It must also bypass the hurdles of Section 197 of the Criminal Procedure Code, which requires permission before public servants can be prosecuted for actions done in the course of his duty.

policies, practices and performance in place to demonstrate implementation, will. It needs changes within and spurring from without. It needs old hands in the force to be reoriented, investigators to be skilled up with modern techniques of detection and forensic capacities across the country to be ramped up. At present, the national infrastructure is sorely wanting. It needs long-delayed human rights courts to be set up with specially trained judges in place. It needs agencies like local legal aid authorities to have clear guidelines to assist where there are allegations of torture and be proactive and not continue with bureaucratic procedures that delay service. It requires overseeing bodies like the many human rights commissions and police complaints authorities to do the same. It is not as some may imagine a mammoth task but rather one of making changes systematically down the line.

A commitment to eradicating torture also requires the police force as a whole to have zero tolerance for the practice and reinvent its purpose — not as an oppressive force at the beck and call of the powerful but as a service whose main work is the protection of the lives and liberties of each of us.

The Common Cause survey of 12,000 personnel at police stations uncovers the truth we all know — that political interference in investigation is near omnipresent. It subverts all. From this root all evil grows, yet it is also the most stubborn area to dislodge. It has made the police the handmaiden of whoever is momentarily powerful, and it is this compact of convenience that has probably prevented any strong initiatives to take illegality in policing off the table once and for all. Changing this is in the hands of the police leadership, but much more in the hands of the political leadership. The home minister's hand is on this tiller. Where the ship goes will depend on how he steers it — on to the rocks of continued torture or away from it.

The writer is board member and senior advisor, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

Lifting the sentiment

Last week's big bang reforms will remove obstacles in efficient use of capital

in Singapore and Deng Xiaoping's reforms in China are good examples.

The easing of FDI norms across some sectors, tax relief for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) and start-ups, reprise for the automobile sector, an upfront support of Rs 70,000 crore to public sector banks with an aim to revive demand and improve liquidity and the merger of PSU banks will have a long-term beneficial impact on our economy.

The opening up of FDI in several sectors is especially timely as in this era of trade wars, India can be a beneficiary. Foreign investment is a key source of economic growth as well as non-debt finance for the country. Hence, a sustained investor-friendly policy is vital to attract foreign funds. Thus the announcement on single brand retail is very important as it gives major flexibility and ease of operations for potential investors. The government has shown enough adaptability to make the crucial local sourcing rules more flexible, which will send out a very positive signal to foreign investors, who have expressed concerns over these norms.

In fact, flexibility along with agility is the hallmark of any good government; some of the other measures, including the removal of FPI surcharge and the angel tax for MSMEs demonstrate the government's ability to respond quickly to remove obstacles for the ease of doing business.

The merger of PSBs is also an idea whose time had come. From the global experience, it is clear that fewer, stronger banks increase productivity, lessen asset quality pressure, boost liquidity and credit flow, improve overall operating efficiency and corporate governance. It would help create banks that can play a global role (a la Chinese banks). Besides, the government has been grappling with poor asset quality in the banking sector. Hence this is a step towards long-term economic growth by removing obstacles in the efficient use of capital. Having too many weak PSBs meant a drain on resources.

However, we were still lacking the one big shot in the arm. This came with the corporate tax rate cut. Since the announcement, several people have asked how the measure will impact the ground realities. I think there are three factors that are very important at this stage: Fundamentals, sentiment and liquidity. With this bold step, the government has taken the bull by the horns to address the sentiment issue. A negative sentiment had built in the industry, the economy and investors. This push turns around the sentiment in a big way.

While several measures have been taken to address liquidity including an easier monetary policy and infusion of liquidity to banks, which will further lend to NBFCs, and the liquidity injection into housing finance

companies, there is still considerable risk aversion in banks and mutual funds to lend to NBFCs. The severe credit crunch in the last 12 months has choked the credit pipeline, or what I call liquidity cholesterol, which has been dampening demand and consumption.

So there is a willingness from corporates to kick start the capex cycle and eagerness from foreign investors to invest in India. But all this will happen if the liquidity crunch eases and demand picks up.

For those arguing that the recent big bang reforms will cause a fiscal slippage, I would argue that while maintaining fiscal deficit targets is important, India, as an important investment destination has much more to lose if it lost favour in the global arena. The current scenario is unlike anything in the past. So, it is important that the government actively tackles the low sentiment in the system by sending positive signals domestically and to the world that "we are willing to walk the extra mile" to realise the India growth story. And they have done exactly that.

Reforms, whether big bang or small continuous ones, need good implementation. Execution has been a focus area for the government and I do hope to see this continue going forward.

The writer is chairman and CEO of the Edelweiss Group

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Unless international efforts are made to convince Myanmar's leadership that prolonging the Rohingya crisis will create multidimensional threats whose effects will not be contained within the borders of Bangladesh only."

— THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH

The Kohinoor in Bombay's crown

For decades, Boman Kohinoor ran one of Mumbai's iconic institutions — Britannia, which served patrons Parsi and Irani cuisine



Avanti G Divan

JUNE, 2014: "KATE, William, George" he says, his wrinkled hands pointing to the laminated photograph. His eyes twinkle behind his square-framed glasses as he discloses that Kate is pregnant again, flashing a smile that reveals several missing teeth. "What?!" He nods knowingly. "I received inside information last week."

You'd think that Kate is his daughter, or niece, or perhaps his brother's wife's or nephew's sister. But I look down at the photograph in his shaking hands and it's the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, beaming in baby blue. Prince George, their first born and the future King of England, is swaddled in their arms. I look up, and there they are again, a waving Kate and William, this time, in cardboard-cut-out form. Perched against a mezzanine, they are the first displays in a priceless exhibition of hand-painted signs: "Debit and Credit Card Not Accepted."

"Please do not argue with management." "Management has got right to check any article or individual on suspicion." "Customers are requested to take of their belongings." "Right to admission is reserved." "Only at Britannia & Co. est. 1923, Wakefield House, 16 Ballard Estate, Bombay."

December, 2016: Every day, as the lunch hour nears, lawyers, college students, office workers and tourists throng to Britannia, a city institution, that has been serving its patrons "exotic Parsi and Iranian cuisine" for as long as India has been independent. Here, customers feast on *patra ni macchi*, *sali boti* and *dhansak*. Of course, the queen of them all, is the delectable *berry pulao*, a chicken dish of speckled white and yellow rice, that is garnished with cashews, caramelised onions and crimson barberries imported from Iran. I am sipping on my Pallonji's (est. 1885) Raspberry soda, when I glance down at the words on the menu before me: "There is no love greater than the love of eating." Tell me about it.

June 2017: The *pista* green paint is peeling off the *café* walls, and the whirring of prehistoric ceiling fans alternates with the scraping of forks against plates licked clean. He is shuffling about the restaurant now, stopping by tables to show and tell. Out

Mr Kohinoor urges me to live until 120. He then says, "God bless you," and "Please give my regards to Madame Hillary Clinton, and no regards to Mr Trump." I laugh. The cat sits and stretches, its eyes glinting towards the wall across.

On the flaking *pista* wall, hang three national flags, one below the other: The Indian tricolour, the Union Jack, and the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Within a metre's distance, is a portrait of Zarathustra, the Zoroastrian prophet, and his maxims, "Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds." Two other persons provide Zoroaster company. To his left, is a smiling Gandhi, wrapped in khadi. To his right, is Queen Elizabeth II, a crown atop her head, a sceptor clasped in her hand. I wonder what they think.

The writer, a Mumbaikar, studies history and Persian at Princeton University

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TEACHERS MATTER

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'You can't shop for teachers' (IE, September 26). One reason for the poor condition of the Indian education system is the lack of committed teachers. India does not have a single university that is ranked among the top 200 of the world's institutions of higher education. A teacher helps a student imbibe values as well as various other good qualities. We should develop an education system where leadership qualities, entrepreneurship and rational thinking are encouraged from the school level itself. To encourage more people to take up teaching as a profession, the government should set up institutes for them on the lines of the IIMs.

Veena Shenoy, Thane

LET'S TALK

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Peekaboo, guess who?' (IE, September 26). Social media platforms are proliferating faster than was expected even some time ago. Such platforms are, of course, modes of communication par excellence. But they can also be sources of misinformation, fake news and trolling. It is also true that the government generally makes social media the scapegoat for many of its failures. It needs to be even-handed while dealing with infractions that occur online. Social media regulation can be a complex matter but the issue can be resolved by involving all the stakeholders.

Deepak Singh, Chennai

JUST RECOGNITION

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Always Big B' (IE, September 25). The editorial is correct in saying that Big B set the mood for the Hindi film industry, remaining larger than life almost for his entire career. Amitabh Bachchan's fan following transcends generations, includes men and women across the so-

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian Express offers the Letter of the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to editpage@expressindia.com or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301. Letter writers should mention their postal address and phone number.

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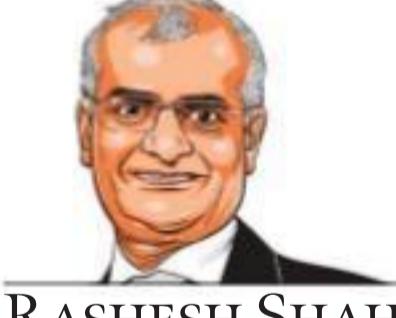
cial spectrum. Conferring him with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award is a recognition of his vast repertoire of roles and contribution to cinema.

Sonit Kumar Goswami via e-mail

STEP UP THE FIGHT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Raise the bar' (IE, September 25). The Indian government's promotion of electric vehicles and renewable sources of energy are good steps in the fight against climate change and global warming. The civil society too has a role to play in protecting the environment and preventing climate change. The Global Climate Strike, of which Greta Thunberg has become the symbol and her speech at United Nations' General Assembly as well as that of Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlight the chilling effects of climate change. The fight must be stepped up.

Sauro Dasgupta, Kolkata



Rakesh Shah

SEVEN YEARS AGO, the President of the European Central Bank, Mario Draghi famously declared that ECB will do "whatever it takes" to preserve the Euro. The reverberation of those utterances resound till date.

A similar event happened last week in India. Only this time, it was even more powerful, accompanied as it was by one of the biggest economic events in India's recent history. By announcing a large corporate tax rate cut across the entire corporate sector and a much lower rate for new manufacturing companies, the government has

clearly shown that it will do whatever it takes to get the economy back on track, and on target for the \$-5 trillion GDP goal. This bold announcement comes on the back of several small but significant reforms in the last few weeks.

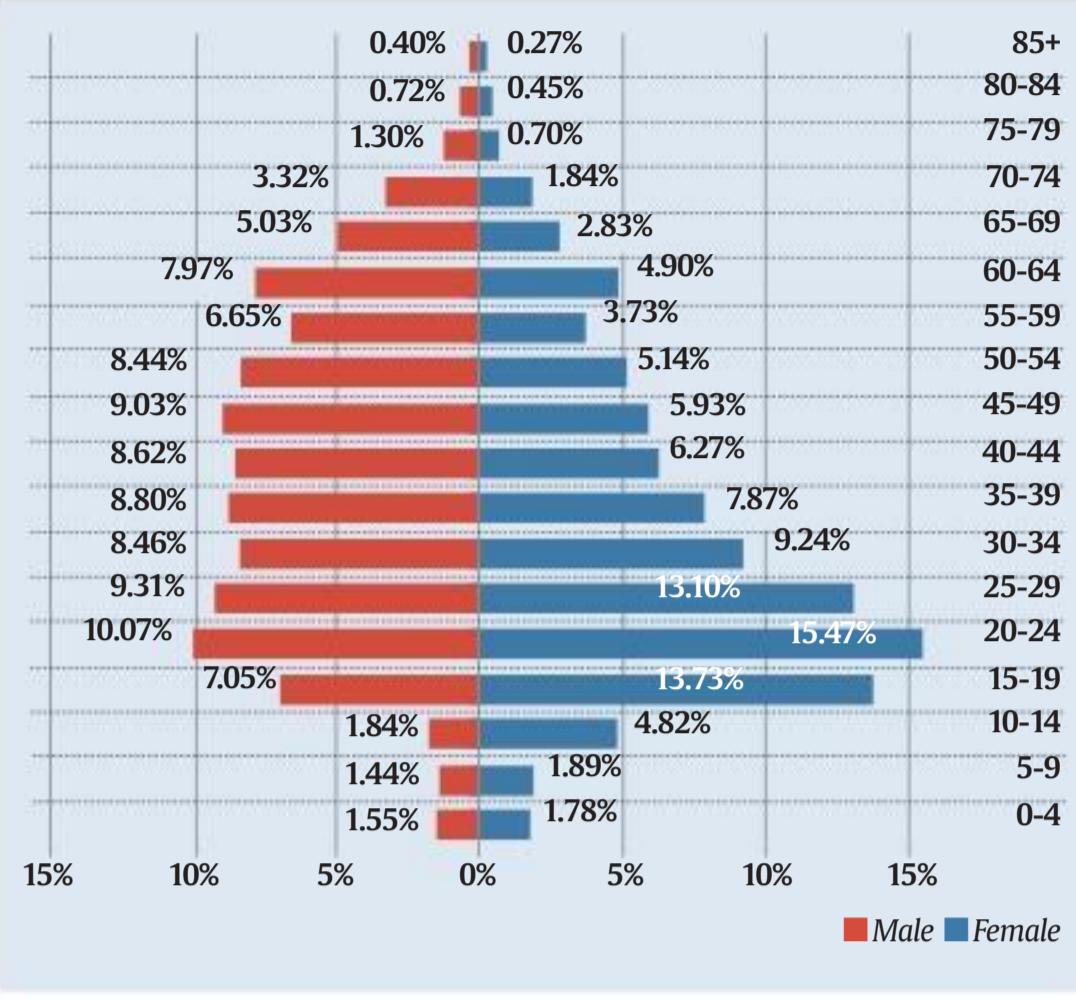
As the economy had been facing headwinds, there has been a demand for major structural reforms. Drastic reforms are hard to undertake for many reasons: First of all, in a democracy, it requires a "real" crisis — like the one in 1991, when the country did not have enough reserves to pay for imports. Though current issues with the Indian economy are worrying, they may not be in the same category. However, such high risk, high return actions can have an impact beyond the intended realm, often changing the entire perception about the country — Lee Kuan Yew's reforms



TELLING NUMBERS

Rise in notified TB cases: breakup by state, age, gender

AGE - SEX PYRAMID (TB-2018)



ON WEDNESDAY, the Centre released the India TB Report 2019, which showed a 16% increase in the number of cases in 2018 as compared to the previous year. The report said 21.5 lakh TB cases were notified to the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) in 2018; India accounted for a quarter of the Global TB burden with an estimated 27 lakh new cases in the year. Of the total notifications, 25% (5.4 lakh) cases were from the private sector; a 40% increase over last year. Among the notified, treatment was initiated for about 19.1 lakh cases (90%) across both public and private sectors. The majority of the affected individuals (89%) were in the age group 15-69 (see chart).

State by state

Uttar Pradesh, with 17% of the population of the country, reported 4.2 lakh cases, accounting for 20% of all notifications (187 cases/lakh population).

Between 2017 and 2018, Haryana saw a large increase in the number of cases, data from the report show (see table). Cases increased significantly in Rajasthan and UP, as well as Delhi.

On the other hand, Odisha witnessed a decline in the number of notified cases from over 67,000 in 2017 to 50,244 in 2018, or about 25%. Odisha was the only such state; the Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands too witnessed a drop.

The two UTs of Delhi and Chandigarh had the highest number of notified patients per lakh population, at 417 and 468, respectively. Their rates of notification are higher because people from many other parts of India get no-

Source: India TB Report 2019

tified from these UTs, the report said.

TB & HIV

TB is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality among people living with HIV, and HIV co-infection rates among incident TB patients is estimated to be 3% – 86,000 HIV-associated TB patients are emerging annually. The mortality in this group is very high, and 11,000 people with HIV die every year due to TB, the report said.

India is the third highest HIV-burden country in the world, with an adult prevalence of 0.22%. The report said people living with HIV are at 21 times higher risk of developing TB. Nearly 25% of all deaths among people living with HIV are estimated to be due to TB.

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Why fears and uncertainty shroud tomorrow's Afghan election

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 26

PRESIDENT ASHRAF Ghani is seeking a second term in Afghanistan's presidential election scheduled for September 28. But with just two days to go, it is still not certain that the election will ultimately be held.

Why the uncertainty?

Sections of the Afghan political class believe it is meaningless to hold elections before a peace deal is concluded with the Taliban. The Taliban have denounced the election, violence has increased in the last few weeks, and fear of bombings and suicide attacks may keep voters indoors.

Also, the elections of both 2009 and 2014 were mired in allegations of fraud, and questions will likely be raised on this election as well. As in the past, the results will likely be contested, and the exercise will be divisive, the critics say.

In an interview to the Associated Press, former President Hamid Karzai likened holding an election now to "asking a heart patient to run a marathon". Karzai, who remains an influential voice in his country, has called for cancellation of the election and resumption of talks with the Taliban – if not between the United States and the Taliban, which President Donald Trump called off this month, then between the

Afghan people and the Taliban.

On Wednesday, the head of Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission (IEC) Hawa Alam Nuristani said the IEC was "fully ready" to conduct election on Saturday, and asked all eligible Afghans to cast their votes. There are 9.6 million voters on the rolls in a population of about 35 million.

This will be Afghanistan's fourth presidential election since 2004, when the current Constitution came into force. Elections have always been held with US financial assistance; ominously last week, the US withdrew \$100 million in aid for Afghanistan's anti-corruption body, saying it was "incapable of being a partner".

So who wants the election?

President Ashraf Ghani, who was excluded from the US-Taliban talks on the latter's say-so, has pushed forcefully for the election to be held. The Taliban say they don't recognise the Afghan government because it is a US puppet. A section of Afghan opinion believes that the proposed US-Taliban deal – which was primarily about the withdrawal of US troops in return for the Taliban agreeing to not let the al-Qaeda and ISIS establish themselves in the country – would have given the upper hand to the Taliban and destroyed hard-won gains of the nearly two-decade-long process of democratisation, which has brought certain freedoms and the rights to Afghans, includ-



In the shadow of the gun, President Ashraf Ghani is seeking re-election. AP

ing to its minority populations. The Taliban have given no indication that they believe in elections, and have been clear that they want power – or at least a share in power – without having to ask for votes.

When Zalmay Khalilzad, the US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, announced this month that the deal with the Taliban now required only Trump's green light, it appeared that the next step would be the setting up of an interim government in which the Taliban would play a big role. The understanding seemed to be

that this interim government would thereafter work out further steps, including a ceasefire and talks between the Taliban and the Afghan people. It carried the implication that the election scheduled for September 28 would not be held.

The cancellation of the talks by Trump changed the situation. Ghani and his running mate for vice-president, Abdullah Saleh, have long argued that "intra-Afghan talks" should be held only after a new government is elected, that they should be between the Taliban and the representatives

of the Afghan people, and that the Taliban should call a ceasefire before such talks.

And who's running against Ghani?

Two of the 18 candidates who filed nominations have since suspended their campaign, one of them in favour of Ghani.

Among those who remain, the best known and strongest candidate is Abdullah Abdullah, a Pashtun-Tajik who was once adviser to Ahmad Shah Massoud, the leader of the Northern Alliance who was killed by al-Qaeda two days before the 9/11 attacks. Abdullah, who became the first foreign minister of Afghanistan soon after the US invasion of 2001, is deputy leader in Ghani's government, designated as Chief Executive.

Abdullah came in second behind President Hamid Karzai in the 2009 election, and was deadlocked with Ghani after a second round run-off in 2015. With neither Abdullah nor Ghani willing to give in, then US Secretary of State John Kerry worked for months to cobble together a power-sharing deal. Abdullah's party is called National Coalition of Afghanistan.

Then there is Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the Pashtun leader of the Hezb-e-Islami. He is a former warlord and an ISI-trained, CIA-funded mujahideen commander who played a leading role in the anti-Soviet insurgency, and in the violence that tore Afghanistan apart as mujahideen factions fought each other for power for six years af-

ter the Red Army exited. In 2001, he based himself in Pakistan from where he orchestrated armed attacks on the Afghan government, until his return in 2016 after a peace agreement with Ghani's government.

The former Afghan ambassador to India, Shaida Abdali, is also contesting.

How has the campaign been?

There has been very little open campaigning due to the intense violence of the last few weeks – the Taliban first tried to grab as much territory as they could in the run-up to what seemed like a deal in the bag with the Americans; they were then angry that the talks were cancelled and the elections were happening. Dozens have been killed in Taliban suicide attacks over the last 10 days. For security reasons, Ghani has campaigned mostly via videoconferencing, and sought a mandate to strengthen his hands in any future talks with the Taliban.

What about security on voting day?

The IEC said last month that for security reasons, 2,431 of the 7,366 polling centres would be closed. Hundreds of these polling stations are in Taliban-controlled territory. The deployment of some 72,000 security personnel has not eased fears of large-scale violence and use of unfair means. The IEC plans to use a new biometric system to identify voters and prevent fraud.

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Listing India's residents, citizens

Government has revived National Population Register project at a time when National Register of Citizens has been published in Assam. How are the two different? What kind of data will be collected, and why?

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
& KARISHMA MEHROTRA

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

IN THE backdrop of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam excluding 19 lakh among the 3.3 crore who had applied, the resurrection of the National Population Register (NPR) project has added to the uncertainty around the idea of citizenship in the country. Even as issues of privacy associated with Aadhaar continue to be debated in the country, the NPR is on a drive to collect detailed data on residents of India. What has added to the conversation is Home Minister Amit Shah floating the idea of "one nation, one card" and asserting that the NRC would be implemented across the country.

What is the NPR?

The NPR is a list of "usual residents of the country". According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, a "usual resident of the country" is one who has been residing in a local area for at least the last six months, or intends to stay in a particular location for the next six months. Unlike the NRC, the NPR is not a citizenship enumeration drive, as it would record even a foreigner staying in a locality for more than six months.

The NPR is being prepared under provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003. It is mandatory for every "usual resident of the country" to register in the NPR.

It will be conducted in conjunction with the houselisting phase, the first phase of the Census, by the Office of the Registrar General of India (RGI) under the Home Ministry for Census 2021. Only Assam will not be included, given the recently completed NRC.

The NPR exercise is conducted at the local, sub-district, district, state and national levels. The RGI has already begun a pilot project in over 1,200 villages and 40 towns and cities through 5,218 enumeration blocks, where it is collecting various data from people. The final enumeration will begin in April 2020 and end in September 2020.

Is the NPR a new idea?

It comes in the backdrop of the NRC excluding 19 lakh people in Assam. With the government insisting that the NRC would be implemented across the country, the NPR has



Census information being collected in Delhi in 2011. Ravi Kanojia/Express Archive

raised anxieties around the idea of citizenship in the country. Even as a debate continues on Aadhaar and privacy, the NPR intends to collect a much larger amount of personal data on residents of India.

The idea of conducting a nationwide NRC would only happen on the basis of the upcoming NPR. After a list of residents is created, a nationwide NRC could go about verifying the citizens from that list.

The NPR is also amongst a host of identity databases such as Aadhaar, voter card, passport and more that Amit Shah said he would like to see combined into one card. "We will have to end all these separate exercises," Shah said at the foundation stone laying ceremony for the new Office of Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner on Tuesday. "If we do a digital census well, then all cards can come into one card. Government has not made this plan yet, but I want to put the potential in front of you to show that a successful digital census is your work and for the benefit of the public," Shah said.

No. The idea actually dates back to the UPA regime and was put in motion by then Home Minister P Chidambaram in 2009. In fact, at that time it had clashed with Aadhaar (UIDAI) over which project would be best suited for transferring government benefits to citizens.

The Home Ministry had then pushed the idea of the NPR being a better vehicle because it

connected every NPR-recorded resident to a household through the Census. Back then, the Home Ministry push had even put the UIDAI project on the backburner.

The data for the NPR were first collected in 2010 along with the houselisting phase of Census 2011. In 2015, this data was further updated by conducting a door-to-door survey.

However, with the current government picking out Aadhaar as the key vehicle for transfer of government benefits in 2016 and putting its weight behind it, the NPR took a backseat. Through a notification on August 3 by the RGI, however, the idea has now been revived. The exercise to update the 2015 NPR with additional data has begun and will be completed in 2020. Digitisation of the updated information has been completed.

What kind of data will NPR collect?

The NPR will collect both demographic data and biometric data. There are 15 different categories of demographic data, ranging from name and place of birth to education and occupation, that the RGI is supposed to collect in the NPR. For biometric data it will depend on Aadhaar, for which it will seek Aadhaar details of the residents.

Apart from this, in a test run going on across the country, the RGI is seeking details of mobile number, Aadhaar, PAN card, Driving Licence, Voter ID card and passport (in case the resident is Indian). It is also working to update the Civil Registration System

of birth and death certificates.

In the 2010 exercise, the RGI had collected only demographic details. In 2015, it updated the data further with the mobile, Aadhaar and ration card numbers of residents. In the 2020 exercise, it has dropped the ration card number but added other categories.

According to Home Ministry sources, while registering with the NPR is mandatory, furnishing of additional data such as PAN, Aadhaar, driving licence and voter ID is voluntary. "Making it mandatory will invite unnecessary litigation. As of now there is no proposal to make it mandatory. We are also reposing trust in citizens. No document is being asked for or being verified against the details provided. The pilot project has shown that almost all the people are willing to share this data. Only in certain urban pockets such as in Delhi have we faced some resistance," a Home Ministry official said.

The Ministry has also floated the option of residents updating details in the NPR online.

Why does the government want so much data?

While there are concerns around privacy, the government position on collection of so much data is twofold. The first is the assertion that every country must have a comprehensive identity database of its residents with relevant demographic details. It says it will help the government formulate its policies better and also aid national security.

The second, largely to justify the collection of data such as driving licence, voter ID and PAN numbers, is that it will only ease the life of those residing in India by cutting red tape. "Not only will it help target government beneficiaries in a better way, but also further cut down paperwork and red tape in a similar manner that Aadhaar has done," a Home Ministry official said.

According to the official, it will streamline data of residents across various platforms. "It is common to find different date of birth of a person on different government documents. NPR will help eliminate that. With NPR data, residents will not have to furnish various proofs of age, address and other details in official work. It would also eliminate duplication in voter lists, government insists."

Officials also insist, however, that NPR information is private and confidential, meaning it will not be shared with third parties. There is as yet no clarity on the mechanism for protection of this vast amount of data.

the Disk Substructures at High Angular Resolution Project (DSHARP), a survey conducted by a consortium of astronomers. DSHARP focuses on images of 20 nearby, bright and large protoplanetary disks.



HONG KONG

Carrie Lam: Main responsibility for ending crisis lies with govt

Hong Kong: Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said on Thursday she had to hold talks with the people no matter how difficult they may be, as she opened the first "open dialogue" session with the public in a bid to end nearly four months of sometimes violent protests. The biggest responsibility for resolving the crisis in the Chinese-ruled city lies with the government, she said, as pro-democracy protesters chanted slogans outside. "If we want to walk away from the difficulty and find a way out, the government has to take the biggest responsibility to do so," Lam said. Outside, about 100 protesters chanted: "Hong Kong people, add oil," a slogan meaning "keep your strength up".

BANGLADESH

Rohingya camps to be fenced

Dhaka: Bangladesh is set to erect barbed-wire fencing, guard towers and cameras around Rohingya camps, the home minister said Thursday citing security concerns, in a move critics said would turn the refugee settlements into prisons. Dhaka has been growing frustrated with the Rohingya in Bangladesh -- who number nearly a million -- since the collapse of a recent repatriation attempt to encourage them to return home to Myanmar. The stateless Muslim minority live in large camps in southeastern border towns.

SRI LANKA

Lanka's tallest tusker gets armed escort

Colombo: Nadungamuwa Raja, 65 years old, is a celebrated elephant towering around 10.5 feet in height, the tallest tamed tusker in Sri Lanka. And he has his own armed guards. Raja's owner said the government has allocated troops to provide security for his elephant as it ambles along main roads to attend temple festivals across the island. "In September 2015, a motorcyclist very nearly crashed into Raja. Then, the government offered protection for Raja when he gets on the road," Harsha Dharmavijaya said.

'A PRESIDENT WHO IS AN ORDINARY PERSON, WHO GOES JOGGING, WHO RIDES A VESPA'

Jacques Chirac, French leader who championed European identity, dies at 86

JAMES F CLARITY & JOHN TAGLIABUE
SEPTEMBER 26

JACQUES CHIRAC, who moulded the legacy of Charles de Gaulle into a personal power base that made him one of the dominant leaders of France across three decades and a vocal advocate of European unity, died on Thursday in Paris. He was 86.

His death was confirmed by the Fondation Chirac in Paris.

Chirac was elected to two consecutive terms as president, beginning in 1995, having already served as prime minister under centrist and Socialist presidents.

At his death, he was most re-

THE WORLD



MEANWHILE

US To SANCTION RAUL CASTRO

The US announced sanctions against Cuba's former president Raul Castro, accusing him of violations of human rights. In his continued role in the communist party, "Raul Castro oversees a system that arbitrarily detains thousands of Cubans and currently holds more than 100 political prisoners," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said.

UK's Johnson faces backlash over confrontational tone

GUY FAULCONBRIDGE & ELIZABETH PIPER
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 26

BRITISH PRIME Minister Boris Johnson said on Thursday tempers needed to calm after a vitriolic session in Parliament the day before, maintaining that only Brexit could resolve deep divisions among lawmakers and across the country.

Parliament reached boiling point Wednesday when Johnson and his opponents engaged in hours of furious argument over Brexit, with lawmakers hurling allegations of betrayal and abuse of power across the chamber.

"We do need to bring people together and get this thing done," Johnson told BBC TV. "Tempers need to calm down and people need to come together because it is only by getting Brexit done that you will actually lasso the boil of the current anxiety."

Johnson returned to the House of Commons on Wednesday after the Supreme Court ruled that his decision to suspend Parliament earlier this month was unlawful.

His opponents roared "resign" and some cast him as a cheating dictator who should stand aside after the court ruling.

'Surrender Bill'

Johnson provoked anger by repeatedly calling a law that forces him to ask the EU for a three-month Brexit delay next month unless he can strike a deal as the "Surrender Bill".



Boris Johnson in Parliament on Wednesday. AP

His critics say such language is often used in threats of violence or worse received by lawmakers, particularly women.

Johnson defended his use of the term to supportive Conservative lawmakers on Thursday, arguing that the legislation would hurt Britain's negotiating stance with the EU.

Remarks on Joe Cox

Many opposition lawmakers were still furious over his response on Wednesday to a question about Jo Cox, a 41-year-old Labour Party parliamentarian who was murdered in 2016 by a loner obsessed with Nazis and extreme right-wing ideology.

When an MP said she had had threats from people echoing the PM's rhetoric, Johnson replied: "I have never heard so much humbug in my life".

It was not just politicians who were angry. Johnson's sister Rachel described her brother's words as "particularly tasteless" way to refer to the memory of a murdered lawmaker. REUTERS

Indian woman among 16 terror suspects held by Malaysian police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KUALA LUMPUR, SEPTEMBER 26

AN INDIAN woman was among 16 terror suspects arrested by the Malaysian police for allegedly planning to attack leaders of local political parties, a media report said on Thursday.

The suspects, some of whom were linked to the Islamic State, were arrested in an operation conducted between August 10 and September 25 in Kuala Lumpur, Sabah, Pahang, Johor, Penang and Selangor cities, state-run Bernama news agency reported.

The 16 terror suspects comprised 12 Indonesians, three Malaysians and one Indian, it said.

Quoting Ayob Khan Mydin, Assistant Director of Malaysian Police's counter-terrorism division, the report said the 38-year-old Indian Sikh woman, who worked as a cleaner, was a member of the secessionist Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) group.

India in July banned the pro-Khalistani group for its alleged anti-national activities. The US-based SFJ pushes for Sikh Referendum 2020. The group's primary objective is to establish an "independent and sovereign country" in Punjab.

He said two Malaysians detained in Sabah were responsible for spreading IS propaganda and acted as facilitators for those who carried out a suicide bomb attack on a church in Philippines in December last year.



Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskiy with Trump on the sidelines of the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday. Reuters

EILEEN SULLIVAN
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 26

EXPLAINED **E.** **Impeachment may dent some 2020 hopefuls' chances**

DEMOCRATS HAVE long feared an impeachment inquiry could help Trump consolidate his base and win more votes. But in the crowded field of Democratic White House hopefuls, the lower profile candidates could face a further blow -- falling off the radar. With impeachment set to dominate the airwaves in the coming months, these candidates fear their messages on other issues, in which they try to stand out, could be drowned out.

These and other details surrounding the call were "deeply disturbing" to senior White House officials, according to the complaint. A day earlier, the White House released a reconstructed transcript of the July 25 call.

The whistleblower, an unnamed intelligence official, did not personally witness the actions but heard accounts from multiple American officials.

"This set of actions underscored to me that White House

officials understood the gravity of what had transpired in the call," the complaint said.

House Democrats took steps to impeach Trump before the contents of the call and complaint were disclosed.

The White House on Thursday dismissed the whistleblower's allegations, with Stephanie Grisham, the press secretary, de-

scribing it as "nothing more than a collection of third-hand accounts of events and cobbled-together press clippings -- all of which shows nothing improper."

In the complaint, the whistleblower wrote that President's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, was involved in the pressure campaign as well as Attorney General William Barr.

The whistleblower also wrote that the unusual handling of the call was deliberate. "They told me that there was already a discussion ongoing with White House lawyers about how to treat the call because of the likelihood, in the officials' retelling, that they had witnessed the President abuse his office for personal gain," the whistleblower wrote. NYT

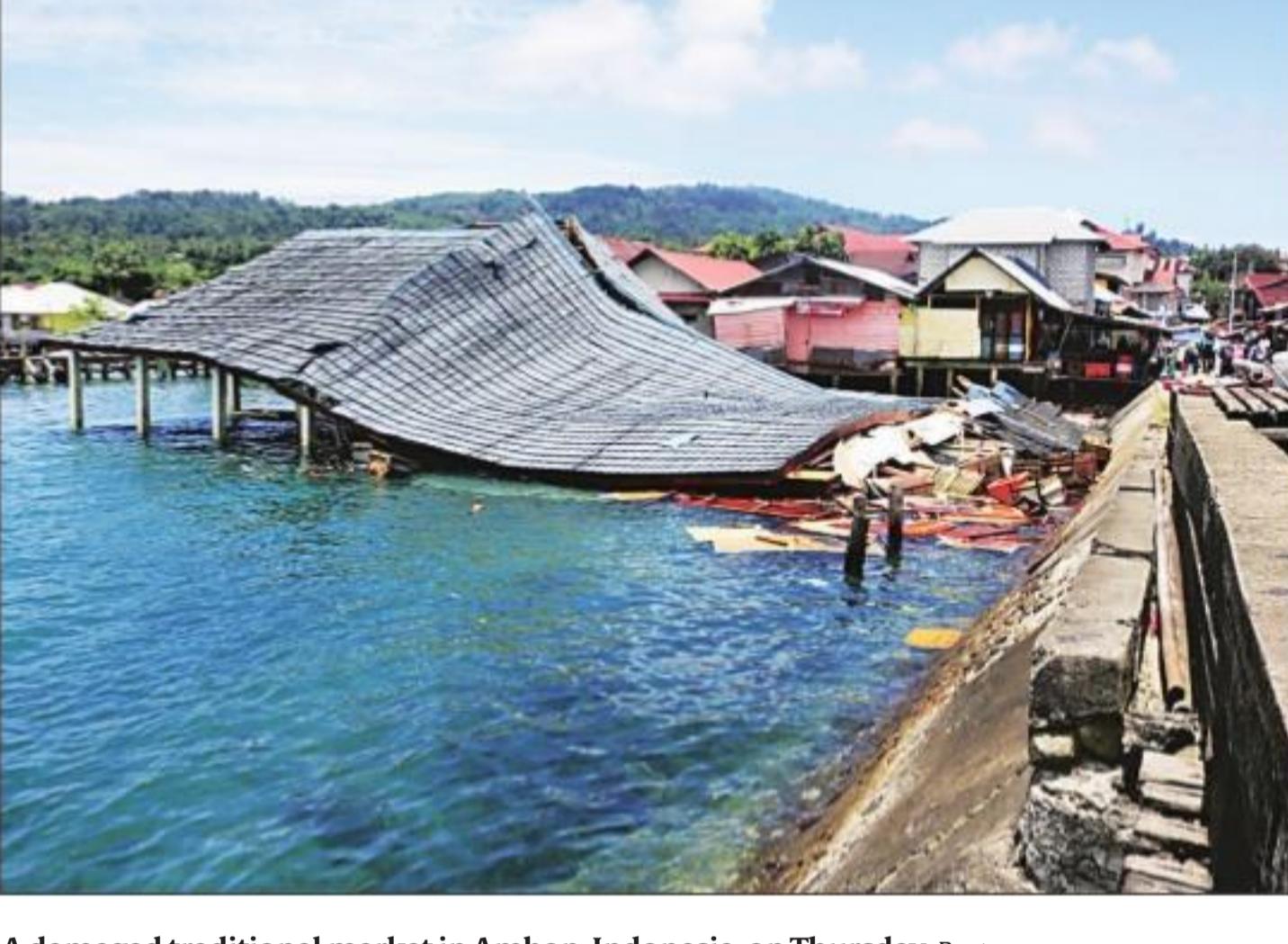
ZELENSKIY THOUGHT ONLY TRUMP'S SIDE WOULD BE PUBLISHED

Kiev: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Wednesday he thought that only US President Donald Trump's side of their July phone call would be published. "I personally think that sometimes such calls between presidents of independent countries should not be published," Zelenskiy told Ukrainian media.

UKRAINE LAWMAKER FILES REQUEST FOR FULL TRANSCRIPT

Kiev: Ukrainian opposition lawmaker Oleksiy Goncharenko has filed an official request for President Volodymyr Zelenskiy's office to release a full transcript of Zelenskiy's July call with President Donald Trump, Interfax Ukraine said on Thursday. Goncharenko wants a full transcript, translated into Ukrainian, Interfax said, citing a Facebook post by the lawmaker.

AT LEAST 20 KILLED IN INDONESIA QUAKE



A damaged traditional market in Ambon, Indonesia, on Thursday. Reuters

■ At least 20 people were killed and dozens injured on Thursday in a strong earthquake that rocked Indonesia's remote Maluku islands, triggering landslides, the disaster agency said.

■ Terrified residents ran into the streets as buildings fell in around them when the 6.5-magnitude quake hit.

■ "The impact was felt across Ambon city and surrounding areas," said Rahmat Triyono, head of the earthquake and tsunami division at Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysical Agency.

■ Last year, a 7.5-magnitude quake and a subsequent tsunami in Palu on Sulawesi island left more than 4,300 people dead or missing.

Khashoggi murder happened under my watch: MbS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 26

SAUDI ARABIA'S crown prince appeared to accept responsibility for the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, telling US television a few months later that it "happened under my watch," but denying any prior knowledge.

"It happened under my watch," Prince Mohammed bin Salman told a reporter in



December 2018, according to quotes released ahead of a new PBS documentary to be aired next week. "I get all the responsibility, because it happened under my

watch," the heir to the Gulf kingdom's throne is quoted as saying, following the October 2 murder.

Prince Mohammed, the kingdom's de facto ruler, has come un-

der huge international pressure after the US-based writer was killed and dismembered in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

Khashoggi's body was never found.

Asked during a conversation at a car race track outside Riyadh in December 2018 why he did not know about the murder, the prince replied: "We have 20 million people. We have three million government employees."



Chirac served as both president and prime minister of France

who is an ordinary person: a president who goes jogging, a president who rides a Vespa."

"Second, he was able to

bridge the left-right divide," Perrineau added. And third, "he presided over France in a relatively good time."

As mayor of Paris, starting in 1977, he had a spotlighted stage

from which to begin a national political career. With a huge staff and budget, he kept the city humming with festivals and exhibitions.

He boasted of an array of international acquaintances, describing Saddam Hussein and the Chinese leader, Deng Xiaoping, as his friends. He often upstaged his own president or prime minister, welcoming prominent guests like Pope John Paul II, President Ronald Reagan and the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and giving lavish dinners at City Hall.

By the time he left the mayor's office in 1995, there was increasing evidence that corruption and political skulduggery had been widespread during his tenure. But despite his later conviction in

court, there were no allegations while he was in office that he had enriched himself. There were suspicions, however, that he must have been aware of the corrupt schemes of his associates, particularly of Jean Tiberi, who succeeded him as mayor.

Jacques René Chirac was born in the Latin Quarter of Paris on November 29, 1932, a few years after his father, Abel, then a minor bank official, and his mother, Marie Louise Valette, had moved to the capital from a village in central France.

As a student, Chirac attended a summer course at Harvard in 1953 and worked at a Howard Johnson's in Boston. He became engaged to a Radcliffe woman, Claude, died in April 2016.

Chirac had largely disappeared from public view in recent years. "I have had an interesting life, full of events, and I am happy with it," he said in an interview in 2000. NYT



Head Office, Allahabad-700001

CORRIGENDUM

Please refer to our NOTICE OF E-AUCTION published on 23.09.2019 of Indian Express. Please read Branch Aurangabad instead of Karakat in Column No.7. Rest of the contents in the advertisement regarding this will remain unchanged.

Authorized Officer

Allahabad Bank

APPENDIX A EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS)

(CORRIGENDUM FOR ADVERTISEMENT OF VACANCIES FOR CONTRACTUAL ECHS STAFF)

- Reference advertisement of vacancies for employment of ECHS Staff at ECHS polyclinics in the AOR of Station Headquarters, Agra Cantt in news papers Dainik Jagran (Hindi) on 20 Aug 2019 and Indian Express (English) on 21 Aug 2019 respectively.
- Following amendments may please made:

For
Para 1(d) - Lab Tech - 01 - ECHS Polyclinic Mainpuri.
Para 1(f) - Nur Asst - 01 - ECHS Polyclinic Mainpuri.
Para 1(g) - Pharmacist - 01 - ECHS Polyclinic Mainpuri.
Para 1(h) - Chowkidars - 02 - One each for ECHS Polyclinic Mainpuri & Etah.

Read

Para 1(d) - Lab Tech - Nil - ECHS Polyclinic Mainpuri.
Para 1(f) - Nur Asst - Nil - ECHS Polyclinic Mainpuri.
Para 1(g) - Pharmacist - Nil - ECHS Polyclinic Mainpuri.
Para 1(h) - Chowkidar - 01 - For ECHS Polyclinic, Etah and Nil for ECHS Polyclinic, Mainpuri.

3. Rest no change.

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (Power Wing)

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No. 2883/BBMB Dated 26.09.2019
Name of Office: Superintending Engineer/DPH Circle, BBMB (PW) Slapper (HP)
Name of the Work: (i) Capital maintenance of 165 MW Dehar Unit No. 3 alongwith repairing of 1st set of underwater parts at DPH Slapper. (ii) Capital maintenance of 165 MW Dehar unit No. 2 and repairing of 2nd set of underwater parts at DPH Slapper.

Document Download start Date & Time	26.09.2019 from 17:00 Hrs.
Last Date & Time of Receipt of Pre Qualification Criteria	18.10.2019 upto 12:00 Hrs.
Document Download End Date & Time	30.10.2019 upto 12:00 Hrs.
Last Date & Time of Online Bid Submission	30.10.2019 upto 14:30 Hrs.
Date & Time of Online Bid Opening	30.10.2019 from 15:00 Hrs.
Estimated Cost	₹ 260 Lacs

For Detailed NIT/term & condition etc., please visit/download from BBMB website www.bbmbproc.abcprocure.com, www.bbmb.gov.in

518-PR-Generation-4 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), Name : Kajol @ Anchal D/o Lt. Sh. Rajender R/o E-80, J.J. Colony, Shakurpur, Delhi is missing/ kidnapped since 03.09.2019. In this regard a case vide DD No. 30 A dated 04.09.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Subhash Place, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

KAJOL @ ANCHAL Age : 19 year, Height: 5', Complexion : Shallow, Built : Thin, Face : Round, Wearing : Pink colour shirt, cream colour pajama and pink colour chappal in feet.

Any person having any information/clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Subhash Place, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

SHO

Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Subhash Place, New Delhi

Fax No. 011-24368639 North-West Distt., Delhi

DP/9397/NW/19 Ph. No. 011-27356336, 27356314

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr. PC

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Vinod S/o Bishan Singh, R/o H.No. 46/B, Balmi Nagar, Distt. Loni, Ghaziabad, UP, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the Offence FIR No. 516/15 u/s 420/380/411/34 IPC at PS. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Vinod cannot be found and whereas it has been to shown to my satisfaction that the said Vinod has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation u/s 82 CrPC is hereby made that the said Vinod accused of FIR No. 516/15 u/s 420/380/411/34 IPC is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 07.12.2019.

By Order
Sh. Virender Singh
(Court Matter)
Metropolitan Magistrate
Room No. 407, 4th Floor, Rohini Court, Delhi

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a female namely **Rakhi Singh, D/o Sh. Than Singh R/o H.O. A763, GD colony, Delhi** has been Missing since 10.09.2019 from P.S. Gaziupur, Delhi. In this regard D.D. No. 24A, dated 11/9/19 P.S. Gaziupur, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing female but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing female is as under:

Name: Rakhi Singh, Gender: Female, Age: 24 years, Height: 4'7", Complexion: Whitish, Face: Round, Wearing: Grey colour Pant and Top, Identification: Mentally Disturbed.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing female, kindly inform SHO/Gaziupur, Delhi.

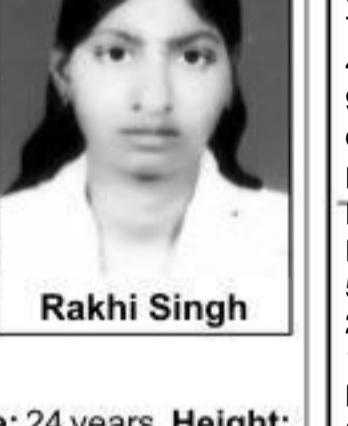
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

Fax : 011-24368639

SHO P.S. Gaziupur, Delhi

DP/7033/ED/19 Ph. No.: 011-22610068, 22610094



Rakhi Singh

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSONS

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **1. Deepak Khera S/o Satish Khera and 2. Deepali Bhatia W/o Deepak Khera both R/o A-48, Subhadra Colony, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi** have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence vide case FIR No. 300/18 u/s 498-A/406/34 IPC P.S. Krishna Nagar, Delhi and it have been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **1. Deepak Khera and 2. Deepali Bhatia** cannot be found and whereas it have been show to my satisfaction that the **1. Deepak Khera and 2. Deepali Bhatia** have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation u/s 82 Cr.P.C. is hereby made that the **1. Deepak Khera and 2. Deepali Bhatia** accused of FIR No. 300/18 u/s 498-A/406/34 IPC P.S. Krishna Nagar, Delhi are required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.10.2019.

By Order: Ms. Harshita Vatsayan
Metropolitan Magistrate,
Mahila Court No. 01, Room No. 57,
Shahdara Distt., Karkardooma Court, Delhi

कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग रायपुर परिक्षेत्र रायपुर

इं-प्रोजेक्टोरेंट निविदा सूचना

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीयन टेक्केदार से प्रपत्र 'ए' में प्रतिरक्त दर पर अनुबंध हेतु निर्माणित निर्माण कार्य ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

NIT No. System & Date Name of Work Probable amount of contract (Rs. in Lacs) Class of Contractor

1 2 3 4 5
04/23-09-2019 56514 Providing supply, laying, jointing testing & commissioning of 1941 mt. distribution system 100 mm to 200 mm diameter ductile Iron pipes class K-7 including excavation

refilling of tranches with valves, specials & all allied civil works testing and trial run for 3 (Three) months & operation and maintenance for 6 (Six) months with all labour and specials under Augmentation

Water supply Scheme of PALLI TOWN District Korba.

नोट:- उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्यों की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापन, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जाकारों इ-प्रोजेक्टोरेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> अथवा विभागीय वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> में दिनांक 03.10.2019 में दर्जी की सकती है।

हस्त/-
मुख्य अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी विभाग
रायपुर परिक्षेत्र रायपुर

73568

E - TENDERING PRESS NOTICE

Executive Engineer, Civil Division No. IV, Irrigation & Flood Control Department Govt. of NCT of Delhi, L.M.B. Unit Office Complex, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-31 invites on behalf of President of India online Percentage rate tender from approved and eligible contractors registered with Irrigation & Flood Control Department upto 3.00PM dated on 28.09.2019 for the works:

H.O.A.: MLALAD FUND UNDER DEPTT. OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT

1. NIT No. 80/RE/CD-IV/IFC/2019-20 (ID No. 2019_IFC_180414_1)

SHO
Name of work:- Providing and laying RCC culverts on R/side of Escape Drain No.1 between RD 1350m to RD1800m. Estimated Cost of Rs. 8,61,881/- Earnest Money Rs. 17,238/- period of completion 45 days.

H.O.A.: MLALAD FUND UNDER DEPTT. OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT

2. NIT No. 88/RE/CD-IV/IFC/2019-20 (ID No. 2019_IFC_180415_1)

SHO
Name of work:- Providing and fixing 100 RCC benches and 100 Stainless steel three seated chairs at various places in Krishan Nagar AC-60. Estimated Cost of Rs. 29,17,790/- Earnest Money Rs. 58,356/- period of completion 60 days.

H.O.A.: VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT UNDER IDRUV

3. NIT No. 102/EE/CD-IV/IFC/2019-20 (ID No. 2019_IFC_180420_1)

SHO
Name of work:- Development of damaged street pavement & side drains of Village Tukmear Pur in Karawal Nagar Constituency (AC-70). Estimated Cost of Rs. 54,71,952/- Earnest Money Rs. 1,09,439/- period of completion 90 days.

H.O.A.: VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT UNDER IDRUV

4. NIT No. 103/EE/CD-IV/IFC/2019-20 (ID No. 2019_IFC_180422_1)

SHO
Name of work:- Development of damaged street pavement & side drains of Village Karawal Nagar in Karawal Nagar Constituency (AC-70). Estimated Cost of Rs. 49,58,177/- Earnest Money Rs. 99,164/- period of completion 90 days.

H.O.A.: MLALAD FUND UNDER DEPTT. OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT

5. NIT No. 104/EE/CD-IV/IFC/2019-20 (ID No. 2019_IFC_180432_1)

SHO
Name of work :- Improvement of 33 feets road with RCC side drains between R.B. Convent Private School Rajiv Nagar to Bar Colony Mode of Gokalpur Constituency (AC-68). Estimated Cost of Rs. 68,22,782/- Earnest Money Rs. 1,36,456/- period of completion 90 days.

H.O.A.: MLALAD FUND UNDER DEPTT. OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT

6. NIT No. 105/EE/CD-IV/IFC/2019-20 (ID No. 2019_IFC_180459_1)

SHO
Name of work :- Construction of Steel Truss Shed & raising of courtyard at Harihar Shamshan Ghat at Kabir Nagar in Babarpur Constituency AC-67. Estimated Cost of Rs. 30,28,330/- Earnest Money Rs. 60,567/- period of completion 90 days

H.O.A.: MLALAD FUND UNDER DEPTT. OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT

7. NIT No. 106/EE/CD-IV/IFC/2019-20 (ID No. 2019_IFC_180456_1)

SHO
Name of work :- Procurement of Water coolers for public use in colonies of Gandhi Nagar Assembly Constituency, AC-61. Estimated Cost of Rs 31,10,950/- Earnest Money Rs. 62,219/- period of completion 60 days

H.O.A.: Development of Unauthorised colonies

8. NIT No. 107/EE/CD-IV/IFC/2018-19 (ID No. 2019_IFC_180499_1)

SHO
Name of work :- Repair/ Restoration of damaged streets in Bhajanpura CA-Block in Ghonda Constituency, AC-66. (Regn No. 12/2018) including maintenance for 5 years. (Balance Work). Estimated Cost of Rs. 12,05,978/- Earnest Money Rs. 24,120/- period of completion 45 days

H.O.A.: Development of Unauthorised colonies

9. NIT No. 108/EE/CD-IV/IFC/2019-20 (ID No. 2019_IFC_180501_1)

SHO
Name of work :- Procurement of Water coolers for public use in colonies of Gandhi Nagar Assembly Constituency, AC-61. Estimated Cost of Rs 31,10,950/- Earnest Money Rs. 62,219/- period of completion 60

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Divisional Railway Manager (Stores), Southern Railway, Thiruvananthapuram Division invites E-Tenders for the supply of undermentioned stores, for and on behalf of the President of India.

SI.No.	Description of stores	Quantity	Due date
1	Supply and erection, testing & commissioning of Control and relay panel for split capacitor bank with two sets of capacitors capable of independent operation with all protection relays as per RDSO Specn.No.TI/SPCI/PSI/PROCT/6071 with A&C Slip No.1	1 No.	22.10.2019

Tender closing and opening date and time: 22.10.2019 at 14.30 Hrs. For further details, please refer to web portal www.ireps.gov.in>E-Tender >Stores>View tenders.

Please note that only online tenders are accepted and tenders are to be digitally signed.

Divisional Railway Manager/Stores, Thiruvananthapuram-695014.

State Bank of India Employees' (M. S. Patel) Co-op. Credit Society Ltd., Mumbai.

State Bank of India, Mumbai Main Branch Building, Third Floor, Mumbai Samachar Marg, Fort, Mumbai - 23. Website : www.sbmbspatel.com

NOTICE

Election of the Board of Directors (2019-2024)

In terms of my notice dtd. 22nd August 2019, members were informed that places & time for voting to be conducted between 06/10/2019 to 11/10/2019 would be advised subsequently. Accordingly, the list of places & time has been circulated to the branches/ offices where the members are posted. The same has been posted on the Society's website - www.sbmbspatel.com. The General Body Meeting of the Society will be held on Sunday, 13th October 2019 at 9.00 a.m. at Vithal Chavan Sabhagruha, Sahyog, 13/14 A, Sector No. 5, Near D. Y. Patil Hospital and Medical Research Centre, Nerul, Navi Mumbai - 400 706, for counting of votes & declaration of the result of election of the members of the Board of Directors. Members are requested to attend the meeting. Members should note that it is compulsory to produce Bank's Identity Card for entry to the venue.

Shivaji P. Deshpande

Returning Officer

(Election sub- committee)

For State Bank of India Employees'

(M.S.Patel) Co-op. Credit Society Ltd., Mumbai.

Place : Mumbai,
Date : 26th September 2019

(M.S.Patel) Co-op. Credit Society Ltd., Mumbai.



सी एस आई आर - केन्द्रीय यांत्रिक अभियांत्रिकी अनुसंधान संस्थान
(वैज्ञानिक तथा औद्योगिक अनुसंधान परिषद)
महात्मा गांधी एवं द्वारा - 713 209 (पश्चिम बागल)

CSIR-CENTRAL MECHANICAL ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)

Mahatma Gandhi Avenue, Durgapur - 713 209 (West Bengal)

Advertisement No. T-01/2019

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR BoPT APPRENTICESHIP TRAINEES

A Walk-in-interview will be conducted at CSIR-CMERI, Durgapur on 22nd & 23rd October, 2019 to select 14 (Fourteen) BoPT Graduate Apprenticeship Trainees and 14 (Fourteen) BoPT Technician (Diploma) Apprenticeship Trainees in various Engineering disciplines. Interested candidates must get himself/herself enrolled/registered with the Board through on-line enrolment at www.mhrdnats.gov.in before appear in the interview. For detail advertisement and other information such as, disciplines & vacancies, consolidated stipend, eligibility criteria, age, tenure, discipline wise date of Walk-in-Interview, application form etc. the interested candidates may log on to the Institute website: www.cmeri.res.in → Announcement → Advt. No. T-01/2019.

Administrative Officer

Tender closing and opening date and time: 22.10.2019 at 14.30 Hrs. For further details, please refer to web portal www.ireps.gov.in>E-Tender >Stores>View tenders.

Please note that only online tenders are accepted and tenders are to be digitally signed.

Divisional Railway Manager/Stores, Thiruvananthapuram-695014.

It has been decided to revise the route of 15707 Katihar - Amritsar Express scheduled to leave from Katihar from 10-10-2019 to 19-10-2019 and 15708 Amritsar - Katihar Express

scheduled to leave from Amritsar from 01-10-2019 to 20-10-2019 diverted via Barabanki Jn. - Malhour - Dalganj - Sitapur City - Roza Jn. and vice versa instead of Burhwal - Sitapur City - Roza Jn. - Moradabad - Ghaziabad and vice versa.

General Manager (Operations)

REVISED ROUTE OF TRAIN SERVICES

It has been decided to revise the route of 15707 Katihar - Amritsar Express scheduled to leave from Katihar from 10-10-2019 to 19-10-2019 and 15708 Amritsar - Katihar Express

scheduled to leave from Amritsar from 01-10-2019 to 20-10-2019 diverted via Barabanki Jn. - Malhour - Dalganj - Sitapur

City - Roza Jn. and vice versa instead of Burhwal - Sitapur

City - Roza Jn. - Moradabad - Ghaziabad and vice versa.

General Manager (Operations)

REVISED ROUTE OF TRAIN SERVICES

It has been decided to revise the route of 15707 Katihar - Amritsar Express scheduled to leave from Katihar from 10-10-2019 to 19-10-2019 and 15708 Amritsar - Katihar Express

scheduled to leave from Amritsar from 01-10-2019 to 20-10-2019 diverted via Barabanki Jn. - Malhour - Dalganj - Sitapur

City - Roza Jn. and vice versa instead of Burhwal - Sitapur

City - Roza Jn. - Moradabad - Ghaziabad and vice versa.

General Manager (Operations)

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GOLD

₹38,685



RUPEE

₹70.91



OIL

\$63.61



SILVER

₹47,235

*Indian basket as on September 23, 2019

International market data till 1900 GMT

POLICY WATCH
DRAFT AMENDMENT BILL

Govt proposes allowing switch between EPS and NPS; BMS opposes

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

AN OPTION to switch between Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) and National Pension System (NPS), a reworked definition of wage to include certain allowances and allowing prioritisation of payment of EPF dues over other debts of a company are some of the major changes proposed by the government in the draft The Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

RSS-affiliated trade union Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) has, however, objected to the proposal to amend EPF law to allow workers to switch between EPS and NPS along with proposal to give an option to reduce the PF contribution rate from 12 per cent to 10 per cent. In the tripartite consultation held on Tuesday to discuss the proposed amendments in EPF MP Act 1952, which was chaired by Labour and Employment Minister Santosh Gangwar, the trade union opposed the new amendment to EPF law. This is the second time, after 2015, that the proposal to bring NPS in EPF law is being opposed by BMS and other trade unions. "NPS is risky market linked, return in EPS is much more than NPS as per the study of EPFO, EPS has more benefits like benefits to family members, insurance, widow pension etc. NPS has a lock period of 15 years for withdrawal, NPS is only a savings scheme with uncertainty of the return at the time of retirement," BMS said in a statement following the consultative meeting with Labour Ministry.

The central trade union further said that the government has not come out with any study about the comparative advantage of the new amendment to workers. BMS also opposed dilution of the latest Supreme Court judgement on the question of inclusion of allowances in the calculation of

OTHER PROPOSALS

■ Amendment also proposes to fix computational basis for 'wage' with allowances paid above 50% or as notified percentage, of all remuneration, to be included in wage
■ Prioritisation of payment of EPF dues over other debts of a firm, also proposed

EPF contribution along with opposing reduction of PF contribution rate from 12 per cent to 10 per cent and giving arbitrary power to government to fix the rates. "So the amendments will only help erring employers and private players and is against the interest of workers, hence Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh opposed the new amendments to EPF law. None of the demands of trade unions is included in the amendment," it said. The Ministry, on its website, said that most of the proposed amendments were "welcomed by the stakeholders".

In the draft amendment Bill, the government has proposed to allow EPF members to choose to switch their contribution towards EPS to NPS. At present, 8.33 per cent of the employer's contribution (12 per cent of basic pay and dearness allowance and capped at Rs 15,000) goes into the EPS for pension payouts post-retirement.

Also, the amendment proposes to fix computational basis for 'wage' with allowances paid above 50 per cent or as notified percentage, of all remuneration, to be included in wage. Currently, the computational basis for determining provident fund contribution is basic wage, dearness allowance and retaining allowance.

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

IN A meeting with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Thursday, many private banks indicated that they will join loan distribution programmes in 400 districts being organised by public sector banks and NBFCs starting next month. Banks indicated they have surplus liquidity that can be deployed during such programmes.

Briefing media after the two-hour long meeting, Sitharaman described her interaction with heads of leading private sector banks, small finance banks and financial institutions as "tonic like". She said her discussions with private lenders revealed that there is no liquidity problem in the financial system. While there are some issues in the wholesale lending, retail lending is not facing any liquidity challenge, she said. "On the whole, it was a very, what can I say, tonic-like meeting, where I have heard a lot of good things, positive things, and not one voice said there is a concern, (or) there is a shortfall of demand. But to my surprise, more credit (deployment) for them is possible even as it is because none of them voiced liquidity concerns," Sitharaman said.

On the issue of automobile



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar and Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey during a meeting with private sector banks, in New Delhi. PTI

sales, bankers told the government that while commercial vehicle slowdown was cyclical and growth will come back in a couple of quarters, dip in passenger vehicle sales was mainly "sentiment driven" and it is expected to pick up in the upcoming festive season ahead of Diwali next month. One observation made by bankers was that the services sector, which contributes more than 50 per cent to the GDP, has high appetite for credit, she said. Bankers suggested that liquid assets held by service sector employees should be allowed to be used for their credit assessment.

Uday Kotak, MD and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank, said that private banks are willing to participate

in the loan distribution programme as there was surplus liquidity with them. Kotak said the private banks think in terms of "one country, one financial system". "When the government is going out there, it is our dharma to lend actively and prudently... We see no pressure from government on outreach programme, we want to lend as there's surplus liquidity," Kotak said.

Most lenders said there were witnessing 15-20 per cent credit growth and retail credit was expanding reasonably well. The government has invited banks to join these outreach programmes and it is up to the private banks whether they want to participate, Sitharaman said.

On the issue of automobile

'World digital competitiveness: India rises to 44th rank'

India has advanced four places to the 44th position in terms of digital competitiveness in the world, according to a IMD World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2019 report

48TH PLACE IN 2018: The country has improved overall in all factors — knowledge, technology and future readiness — as compared to the previous year's ranking

US IS THE most digitally competitive economy, followed by Singapore

SWEDEN WAS ranked third, followed by Denmark and Switzerland in the 4th and 5th place, respectively

TOP 10 LIST INCLUDES:

- The Netherlands at 6th place
- Finland at 7th
- Hong Kong SAR at 8th
- Norway at 9th
- Republic of Korea at 10th



THE LARGEST jump in the ranking was registered by China, from 30th to 22nd, and Indonesia, from 62nd to 56th

IN THE CASE of China, the improvement originated mainly in the knowledge

factor (18th) in which it progressed in the training and education sub-factor (from 46th to 37th) and in scientific concentration (21st to 9th), the report said

TAIWAN AND China moved

up to 13th and 22nd place, respectively

THE RANKING measures the capacity and readiness of 63 nations to adopt and explore digital technologies as a key driver for economic transformation in business, government and wider society

THREE FACTORS that the WDCR examines are: Knowledge, the capacity to understand and learn the new technologies; technology, the competence to develop new digital innovations; and future readiness, the preparedness for the coming developments

RBI Officers Society has ₹105 crore fixed deposits in PMC Bank

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 26

Pensioners could also be ruining their fate as the Maharashtra govt had permitted PMC Bank "to open saving bank account of pensioners" of the state government

According to the balance sheet of the RBI Officers Co-Op Society, apart from Rs 105 crore FD in PMC Bank, it had FDs in Bharat Co-operative Bank (Rs 100 crore), Apna Sahakari Bank (Rs 85 crore), Solapur Janata Sahakari Bank (Rs 50 crore) and Thane Bharat Sahakari Bank (Rs 85 crore), among others. "The RBI is likely to lift the restrictions once the problems in the bank are resolved. The money will be safe," said an official of the All India Reserve Bank Employees Association. When contacted, the RBI did not comment on the issue.

Pensioners could also be ruining their fate as the Maharashtra Government had permitted PMC Bank "to open saving bank account of the pensioners" of the state government. The Maharashtra Government had permitted PMC Bank "to open saving bank account of the pensioners of government of Maharashtra" last fiscal, the cooperative bank claimed in its annual report for 2018-19. The number of accounts opened under the 'Nivartika Savings Bank Accounts' head could not be ascertained.

PMC 24th co-op bank to face RBI action since Jan

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

THE RESERVE Bank of India's order restricting banking activity at Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank on Tuesday is not a case in isolation as 23 more co-operative banks faced similar action by the regulator so far in this calendar year.

While RBI restricted withdrawals and appointed an administrator superseding the board of PMC on Tuesday after finding financial irregularities and audit concerns at PMC Bank, under Section 35(A) of the Banking Regulation Act, it has taken steps under the same section in case of 23 more urban co-operative banks and has extended the period of such action (taken in the past), in case of ten other banks.

Sources in the banking industry say that this reflects upon the magnitude of the problem at co-operative banks and raises question marks in the way they are being run and regulated. As per the data collated by Maharashtra State Bank Employees Federation (MSBEF), PMC Bank is the 24th bank this year to have seen RBI invoking Section 35(A). The section provides RBI with the power to give directions to banks in a bid to "prevent the affairs of any banking company being conducted in a manner detrimental to the interests of the depositors or in a

manner prejudicial to the interests of the banking company". The RBI can also "secure the proper management of any banking company" under this section.

The co-operative banks that have seen an extension of orders issued by RBI include Kapil Co-operative Bank, Rupee Co-operative Bank, Mercantile Co-operative Bank and The City Co-operative Bank among others.

Beside the PMC Bank, the co-operative banks that have seen fresh directions from RBI under this section this calendar include Mapusa Urban Co-operative Bank of Goa, Kerala Mercantile Co-operative Bank, The Maratha Sahakari Bank, The CKP Co-operative Bank and Bidar Mahila Urban Co-operative Bank among others. Devidas Tuljapurkar, general secretary, MBSEF said that instead of intervening as knee-jerk reaction, the RBI should, "Carry out inspection of all Urban Co-operative Banks," and do quality inspection to deal with delinquent urban co-operative banks. He further said, "RBI as a regulator has failed in arresting distractions in the financial sector, leading to decline in confidence of common man in the banking sector".

On the other hand, three banks have seen a withdrawal of orders passed by RBI under the section this year. These include Shri Ganesh Sahakari Bank, Gomti Nagarjya Sahakari Bank and Indian Mercantile Co-operative Bank.

Sebi examining 'controlling shareholders' concept: Tyagi

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 26

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) is examining the relevance of the company 'promoters' concept and studying the possibility of shifting to 'controlling shareholders'.

While the concept of 'promoter' has been prevalent in India for a long period of time, globally, rather than promoters, the concept of 'controlling shareholders' is more prevalent. "Keeping in mind changing realities of the global and Indian markets, we are examining the relevance of the concept of 'promoter' in today's times along with whether any changes to Sebi Regulations are warranted in this regard," Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi said.

Tyagi said the Sebi will soon take a view on a proposal to reduce the time taken for rights issue to around 31 days as well as make the application and allotment process more efficient. Currently, the rights issue process takes 55-58 days from the time a company decides to launch the issue till the listing. "Sebi had put out a consultative paper to reduce the timelines for rights issues. We will be soon taking a view on this subject," Tyagi said.

He said in recent times, rights issue has seen a pick-up in the ac-

tivity. In the rights issue mode, shares are issued to existing investors at a pre-determined price, normally at a discount, in proportion to their holdings.

The regulator said that there is a need to reduce the timelines — both in the pre-issue opening phase and after issue closure — such that issuer and shareholders benefit from process efficiencies.

On AIF, Sebi said it is in the "process of taking steps to further strengthen the framework for AIFs in areas such as standardisation of the private placement memorandum and benchmarking framework for performance disclosures". Tyagi said there is a conscious effort to move from bank credit to other forms of credit. **WITH PTI**

PMC Bank customers can now withdraw up to ₹10K

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 26

PROVIDING RELIEF to worried customers of crisis-hit Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank, the Reserve Bank on Thursday increased the cash withdrawal limit to Rs 10,000 per account.

While slapping restrictions on the bank for six months, the RBI had on Tuesday allowed withdrawal of only Rs 1,000, creating panic among the depositors. "It has been decided to allow depositors to withdraw a sum not exceeding Rs 10,000 (including the Rs 1,000 already withdrawn) of the total

balance held in every savings bank account or current account or any other deposit account," the RBI said in a statement.

According to the central bank, the higher limit is subject to fact the customer does not have any liability with the bank by way of loans of surety for a third-party loan. With the above relaxation, more than 60 per cent of the depositors of the bank will be able to withdraw their entire account balance. Meanwhile, the bank said the 36th annual general meeting of the bank, scheduled to be held on September 28, has been called off as the board of the bank has been superseded.

Sebi: No provision for standstill pact between MFs and borrowers

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 26

SEBI ON Thursday said there was no provision for standstill agreements between mutual funds and their borrowers in any regulations and all entities need to follow the same rules.

"It is not there in any of the regulations. We have made our position clear. Entities have to follow the regulations that are there. There is no confusion in that," Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi said.

The Sebi observation came a day after Subhash Chandra-led Essel Group claimed it has got unanimous backing from lenders including fund houses to further extend its repayment timelines for

its balance dues. Mutual funds had first given an extension, called as standstill agreement, to the financially embattled group till September, creating a new precedent. This move was done in the face of a massive decline in the market price of Zee Entertainment Enterprises, the flagship company in the group, where promoters had pledged holdings.

On September 20, the Zee group said it was in a steady dialogue with lenders. Zee also asked its lenders to extend its September 30 deadline for repayment of debt.

On reports of SBI writing to Sebi to make an exception in the DFL restructuring case, Tyagi said there are already regulations on Inter Creditor Agreements for MFs and that is the policy.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 26

THE WEST Bengal government is planning to set up "co-living places" in Kolkata to offer affordable and shared housing facilities to young IT professionals and entrepreneurs in order to attract talent from India and Bangladesh.

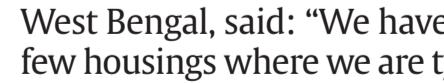
The government has taken this decision to help young IT professionals, entrepreneurs and innovators who are working in the IT industry at Kolkatta's Rajarhat and New Town areas.

Speaking on the concluding day of the two-day "Technology Senate Bangla", organised by The Express Group, Debasish Sen, Additional Chief Secretary, IT Department, Government of West Bengal, said that the project had been approved and the budget sanctioned.

Companies to find out a joint-venture route to build co-living spaces, along with co-working places close to Bengal's Silicon Valley project. He also added that this project had been approved and the budget sanctioned.

The Silicon Valley project was launched in August last year to attract investment in the IT sector and to build a world class ecosystem for cutting edge technologies and innovation. Companies such as Reliance Jio, TCS and First Source have already bought land the Silicon Valley Hub, which will come up in New Town.

Debasish Sen said the government was in conversation with com-



Technology Senate
BANGLA



Debasish Sen, Additional Chief Secretary, IT Department, Government of West Bengal, at the Technology Senate Bangla, in Kolkata on Thursday. Partha Paul

'Smuggling in 5 sectors cost India 16 lakh jobs in FY18'

PRAHBA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

SMUGGLING OF goods in the textiles, ready-made garments, cigarettes, machinery and parts and consumer electronics industries prevented India from adding over 16 lakh jobs in 2017-18, shows a new study on the issue.

"Total estimated livelihood opportunity lost in the economy is about 16.36 lakh because of the estimated smuggling in these five industries because of backward linkage and multiplier effects of these industries," stated the study titled *Invisible Enemy: Impact of Smuggling on Indian Economy and Employment*. The study was commissioned by Ficci CASCADE and conducted by Thought Arbitrage Research Institute (TARI).

Of this, over 5 lakh jobs were prevented from being added to

these sectors directly. Labour-intensive industries like readymade garments and tobacco products experienced a chunk of the loss in direct livelihood opportunities.

The remaining 11.35 lakh job opportunities were a result of the "backward linkage and multiplier effects" mentioned in the report. This means that other industries linked to the production process in these key industries, including ancillaries, together lost out on over 11 lakh jobs as a result of smuggling of these products, according Ficci advisor PC Jha.

"This type of study has been conducted in India for the first time to see what the impact of smuggling of these five key commodities has been on the job opportunities in the country," Jha told *The Indian Express*.

Trade in smuggling, contraband, counterfeit and pirated goods has risen steadily in the last few years and now stands at 3.3 per cent of global trade, according to Ficci's release about the report.

SMUGGLING & LOSSES TO THE COUNTRY

Year	Textiles Industry	Readymade Garments Industry	Tobacco Products (Cigarettes)	Capital Goods (Machinery & Parts) Industry	Consumer (Electronics) Durables Industry
Loss to Economy (Rs crore)	2017-18	12,636	14,516	16,138	52,511
Employment Potential (in lakh)	2017-18	2.21	3.44	3.34	6.12
					1.25

NCLAT allows Dutch court administrator to attend Jet CoC meets

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

THE NATIONAL Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Thursday allowed the Dutch court administrator of Jet Airways to attend the committee of creditors (CoC) meetings of the bankrupt carrier.

The order assumes significance as the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 does not deal with cross-border insolvency, which means when insolvency proceedings are moved against the same company in two different countries. A three-member NCLAT Bench said the Dutch administrator would be part of the CoC meeting and would be given minutes of the meetings.

The appellate tribunal also set aside the earlier order of the

Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), which had refused to recognise the Dutch insolvency proceedings. The NCLT had barred Dutch court administrator from taking part in the Jet insolvency proceedings in India.

The appellate tribunal order came after the resolution professional (RP) of Jet and the Dutch court administrator agreed to co-ordinate in the insolvency proceedings ongoing in India.

Earlier, during the last hearing, the NCLAT had directed the Jet RP and Dutch court to file the terms and conditions of their agreement. The NCLAT's direction came while hearing a petition filed by the Dutch court administrator against the order of the Mumbai bench of the NCLT, which had declared overseas bankruptcy proceedings null and void. FE

IL&FS CASE SC restrains govt from acting against auditor BSR

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

THE SUPREME Court on Thursday refused to allow the government to proceed against auditing company BSR & Associates LLP, a KPMG-affiliated firm, for alleged fraudulent misconduct in the Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) case.

The financial affairs of the IL&FS group came under scrutiny last year after it defaulted on short-term and long-term debt obligations to the tune of Rs 91,000 crore.

The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) in May filed a criminal complaint against 30 parties in the IL&FS case, including Deloitte Haskin & Sells LLP and BSR & Associates. In its complaint, SFIO accused these auditors of colluding with officials of IL&FS Financial Services to conceal facts and fraudulently falsifying the books of accounts and thereby financial statements from FY14 to FY18. FE

INTERNAL WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

RBI liquidity panel proposes call rate as the target rate

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 26

THE RESERVE Bank of India's Internal Working Group on liquidity management has recommended that the liquidity framework should largely continue in its present form of the corridor system with the call money rate as the target rate.

The RBI Group has articulated guiding principles for an effective liquidity management framework. It has proposed that the liquidity framework should be guided by the objective of maintaining the call money rate close to the policy rate (Repo rate). "It should be consistent with the policy rate and it should not undermine the price discovery in the inter-bank money market," the panel said.

According to the panel, the framework should be flexible.

While the corridor system

EXPLAINED

Such framework ensures sufficient liquidity in system

AN EXPERT group of the RBI has suggested guiding principles for an effective liquidity management framework. Such a framework ensures that sufficient liquidity is available in the system for the financial market participants. The panel has proposed that the liquidity framework should be guided by the objective of maintaining the short term call money rate close to the policy rate or repo rate.

be adaptable, it said in the report released on Thursday.

As the call money market is the only money market segment which trades exclusively in reserves, the Group recommended that the call money rate – with Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR) as the measure – should continue as the target rate of the liquidity management framework. It observed that the design of the corridor system, with repo rate as the policy rate, would

generally require the system liquidity to be in a small deficit of about 0.25 per cent - 0.5 per cent of Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) of the banking system (deposits). However, if financial conditions warrant a situation of liquidity surplus, the framework should

be ideally one single overnight variable rate operation in a day, supported by fine-tuning operations, if required," it said. The target rate being an overnight rate, liquidity operations should predominantly be of overnight maturity. banks should be able to borrow in the inter-bank money market at rates not higher than the rate at which they could borrow from a central bank (the rate at which a central bank injects liquidity), the RBI panel said.

"The current provision of as-

'Companies should pass on tax cuts to consumers'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

CONFIDENT ABOUT the Indian growth story getting a big boost from the recent corporate tax rate cut, HDFC chairman banker Deepak Parekh has said profit-making companies should pass on a part of the benefits to consumers by lowering their product prices as that would help increase sales. He also dismissed concerns about any major impact on fiscal deficit side due to the government foregoing a big chunk of their estimated tax revenues and said a strong disinvestment pipeline, starting with Air India, should help fill the gap.

"Our tax rates have become very competitive now and the government's move to lower corporate tax rates should help the country attract manufacturing units which we were losing to countries like Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines," Parekh told PTI in an interview. "We were losing manufacturing units in sectors like textiles to these countries and fresh investments can now come to India with lower tax rates," he said.

BRIEFLY

Audit cases: Oct 31 is new ITR deadline

New Delhi: The CBDT has extended the September 30 deadline by a month for filing of income-tax returns for special cases requiring audit reports. The new deadline is October 31. PTI

'Govt to decide on relief in I-T at appropriate time'

New Delhi: The Centre will take a decision on raising the income-tax exemption limit at an appropriate time, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur said on Thursday. PTI

Tax cuts may bolster growth eventually: Fitch

New Delhi: Fitch Ratings on Thursday said the steep cut in tax paid by companies may stimulate investments and economic growth only in the medium term, but it will lead to breach fiscal targets in the current fiscal year itself. PTI

Sood takes over as Assocham secy general

New Delhi: Industry body Assocham on Thursday said Deepak Sood has taken over as secretary general of the chamber. Sood, who earlier worked in the Confederation of Indian Industry, was also deputed CEO of Invest Karnataka Forum. PTI

Axis Bank raises ₹12,500 crore through QIP

New Delhi: Axis Bank on Thursday said it has raised Rs 12,500 crore through qualified institutional placement (QIP) to fund business growth. PTI

Ashok Leyland extends output cut at Ennore

Chennai: Ashok Leyland has announced five more non-working days at its plant in Ennore, Chennai, in view of the slump in the sector. FE

China, US eyeing Oct trade talks

Beijing: China and the US are still discussing details about trade talks in October, making preparations to ensure "positive progress" is made during the talks. REUTERS

Leela-Brookfield deal: SAT dismisses ITC plea

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

ITC is going to challenge the SAT's decision in the Supreme Court on Friday

SAT's decision in the Supreme Court on Friday.

Consequently, the SAT also vacated its stay on Hotel Leela declaring the final outcome of the postal ballot resolutions seeking shareholders' approval for sale of assets to Brookfield Asset Management until the tribunal delivers its order on the matter. Hours after the order, Hotel Leela

posted results of the postal ballot on the exchanges. As per the documents, the company received 89.13 per cent approval from shareholders on votes polled on all resolutions.

The tribunal further rejected ITC's oral plea for two-week time to appeal against the decision in the Supreme Court on the basis of merit. ITC challenged Sebi's order that had allowed Hotel Leela to conduct a fresh postal ballot on the proposed transaction with Brookfield, but called for the company to provide all relevant details with respect to the transaction, along with additional disclosures on valuation and additional intellectual property transaction.

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WTO to back \$7.5 billion US tariffs on EU in aircraft spat

REUTERS
PARIS/BRUSSELS, SEPTEMBER 26

THE UNITED States has been granted approval to impose tariffs on European Union goods with an annual trade value around \$7.5 billion over illegal government support for European planemaker Airbus, people familiar with the matter said.

The decision brings the transatlantic trade powers closer to a tit-for-tariff war in the aircraft industry after a 15-year-old dispute at the World Trade Organization, although some analysts believe it will be settled without a trade fight.

The WTO has found that both Airbus and its US rival Boeing received billions of dollars of subsidies in a pair of cases marking the world's largest ever corporate trade dispute. Both sides have threatened tariffs after the Geneva body found neither adhered fully to its findings.

Washington sought permission to impose tariffs up to 100 per cent on European goods worth \$11.2 billion a year. Those include aircraft and aerospace parts from Airbus host nations — Britain, France, Germany and Spain — as well as a range of goods.

'FAA should require Boeing to reassess 737 MAX pilot actions'

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 26

BOEING CO should take a harder look at pilot response to cockpit emergencies in its 737 MAX safety assessment and potentially make changes to flight deck alerts, pilot procedures and training, the National Transportation Safety Board said.

The US air accident investigator unveiled on Thursday several recommendations to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the wake of fatal crashes of a Lion Air 737 MAX in Indonesia and an

"We want FAA to ensure that Boeing takes a close look at all these different failure conditions that can activate MCAS and ensure that they have evaluated the pilots' response to that," Dana Schulze, director of the NTSB Office of Aviation Safety, told reporters at a briefing.

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CLIMATE CHANGE

A warmer Russia

Why Russia is ambivalent about global warming



Arctic sea ice is now receding at an alarming rate. In 1980 it covered 7.9m square kilometres at its summer minimum, whereas last year it dipped to only 4.6m. Reuters

FIRST CAME fires that turned the Siberian skies into a wall of solid smoke stretching for thousands of kilometres. Then came a drought that sucked the Lena river nearly dry, leaving boats marooned in the mud. It has been an arduous summer in Yakutia, an icy republic in Russia's far east. Add to that the fact that the regional capital, Yakutsk, stands upon thawing permafrost that warps roads and buildings, and climate inaction becomes hard to defend. "I've lived here my whole life, I remember what the winter used to be like, and what it's like now," says Sardana Avksenteva, Yakutsk's mayor. "I can confirm that global warming is a problem."

Some 1,000km (600 miles) to the north, on the republic's Arctic coast, the dying town of Tiksi would beg to differ. From its frozen vantage-point, warming has been a boon. Arctic sea ice is now receding at an alarming rate. In 1980 it covered 7.9m square kilometres (3m square miles) at its summer minimum, whereas last year it dipped to only 4.6m. So the Northern Sea Route (NSR) through once-impassable waters has emerged as a potential global shipping artery. The Russian government has pledged to direct some 735bn roubles (\$11bn) over the next six years towards its development. The route holds the promise of cutting delivery times between Asia and Europe by weeks, compared with going by the much

longer Suez Canal route—with Russia poised to take a healthy cut for helping the cargo through. Tiksi has seen a new military base go up. It is in the running for a 2.5bn-rouble port project.

This tension between catastrophe and opportunity has shaped the contours of the climate-change debate in the world's fourth-largest carbon-emitter. Russia has signed but has not ratified the Paris agreement, making it the only large emitter outside the pact (though President Donald Trump has said he intends to withdraw America from its strictures). It is not only the world's second-largest producer of oil and gas combined, it also possesses ice-locked coasts and a vast, underpopulated hinterland which, some argue, could use the boost brought by a few degrees of warming. At an Arctic forum in 2017, Vladimir Putin called climate change "a factor that bolsters optimism", adding that it "provides more favourable conditions for economic activity in this region". He once quipped that climate change would enable Russians to spend less money on fur coats.

Yet the downsides are proving harder to ignore, as Mr Putin himself acknowledged at a G20 summit this summer. Russia is warming more than twice as rapidly as the world's average rate, and is experiencing a full range of climate-change-connected calamities for itself. The Ministry of Economic

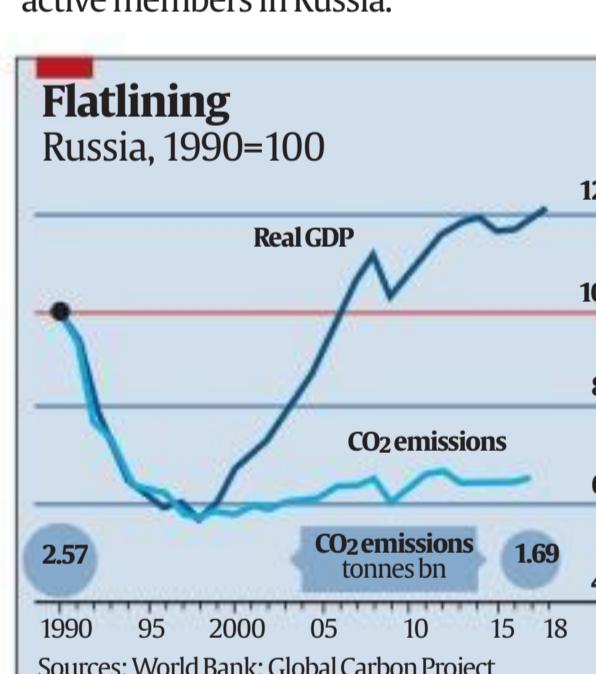
Development has accelerated climate policymaking. A national adaptation plan is in the works, and bills introducing carbon taxes and other mechanisms to regulate greenhouse-gas emissions have also been drafted. Earlier this year, Russia's main industrial lobby dropped its opposition to the Paris agreement. Russia's companies "understood that they lose more by remaining on the sidelines than by joining," says Mikhail Yulkin, head of the lobby's climate-and-environment committee. The economy minister, Maxim Oreshkin, tells *The Economist* that ratification is in the works.

Ratification, though, will have minimal practical impact. Russia's emissions-reduction pledge for the Paris agreement uses as a benchmark its levels in 1990—a year before the collapse of Soviet heavy industry. This means that cutting emissions by 25-30%, which Russia promised to do by 2030, requires virtually no reduction from today's less industrial levels (see chart).

Northern lights

There is little pressure from the citizenry to do more. Although 55% of the Russian population believes that humans are causing climate change, the number has changed little over the past decade, and climate change is on the periphery of Russian discourse. The worsening state of the environment came in

ninth place when Russians were asked to name their main concerns, whereas concerns about the economy and corruption dominated. Even Russia's embattled opposition has ignored the issue: the manifesto of Alexei Navalny, its leader, does not contain a single mention of climate change. Although young people have come out in their thousands to protest against corruption, Arshak Makichyan, a 22-year-old violinist who launched the Russian branch of Fridays for Future, an international group of students demanding action against climate change, reckons that the movement has just 50-100 active members in Russia.



Russia's leaders, in turn, see decarbonisation as a prospect too distant to care about. The government's in-house think-tank reckons that global carbon-dioxide emissions will not decline until after 2040, and that the world's appetite for Russia's hydrocarbons will last that long, too.

If Russia goes greener, it may not be in a way that Western environmentalists will like. It has a flourishing domestic nuclear industry, and a well-stocked foreign order book. Mr Putin recently raised eyebrows with an attack on wind turbines over the harm they do to birds and, he said, worms. "They shake, causing worms to come out of the soil," he said. "This is not a joke." Instead, warmer temperatures tantalise with the prospect of easier access to natural-resource wealth, an expanded farm belt, a reduced winter heating bill, and tolls from the Northern Sea Route.

Yet those benefits are hardly certain. The number of ships taking the NSR remains a fraction of those taking more established paths, such as the Suez Canal; tapping its potential will require big investment. Though land in the north may become arable, it will be farther from the agricultural know-how, infrastructure and logistical base of traditional farming regions. Those established farmlands, meanwhile, will have to adjust the crops they plant and cope with ever more

frequent droughts. "The bad will be there no matter what, while the good requires major efforts," says Vladimir Kattsov, director of Russia's Voeikov Geophysical Observatory.

Unstable weather patterns are already on the rise. In 2000 Russia's weather service recorded 141 "severe weather phenomena", which it defines as intense weather conditions—from heatwaves to heavy winds—that threaten human safety and can cause significant economic damage. Last year there were 580.

Frequent severe weather will trigger alarming consequences across Russia's vast territory, its environment ministry warns. Modern-day infectious diseases will spread and ancient ones may return, as thawing permafrost exposes old burial sites. Arctic infrastructure will crumble as the ground becomes softer. In Yakutsk, locals have already taken to calling one tiling nine-storey apartment block built on the thawing ice their own leaning tower of Pisa. The floods that have devastated the Russian far east in recent years will become more common. So, too, will forest fires like the ones this summer that struck Siberia. "Nature is sending us little signals," Ms Avksenteva says. Russia, and the world, would be wise to notice.

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CHINESE STUDENTS IN AUSTRALIA

Waltzing Confucius

Australian universities are accused of trading free speech for cash

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute reckons 300-odd scientists tied to China's armed forces have visited Australia since 2007. In one "particularly worrying" case, a professor worked with a Chinese general to develop supercomputers to develop nuclear-weapons tests

likely for supposedly hurting students' feelings; one was suspended in 2017 after he claimed that ordinary Chinese believe that government officials only ever speak the truth by accident.

Last year Victoria University cancelled a screening of a film criticising Confucius Institutes after Chinese diplomats expressed misgivings about the event. Some academics complain that administrators have encouraged them to keep awkward opinions to themselves. One grumbles that his "freedom of speech was egregiously compromised" when a panel discussion on Chinese politics was suddenly cancelled ahead of a Chinese state visit to Australia.

Students police each other as well as their teachers. Officially Chinese Students and Scholars Associations, which are backed by the Chinese state, run social events and help newcomers. But they are also assumed to snitch on dissenters, leaving many Chinese students afraid to speak their minds.

By courting controversy, these organisations may have done more harm than good to China's interests, says Mark Harrison, a Chinese-studies lecturer at the University of Tasmania. So have the Confucius Institutes, which are accused of stifling academic freedom by discouraging students from discussing sensitive topics. It is "completely inappropriate for universities to host what amount to arms of the Chinese Communist

Party on their campuses", argues Kevin Carrico of Monash University.

Universities don't think they need to register the institutes under a new law that requires agents of foreign governments attempting to influence politics to declare themselves. The attorney-general's office is mulling whether they should. A separate government taskforce is investigating whether universities are doing enough to prevent sensitive research from reaching foreign govern-

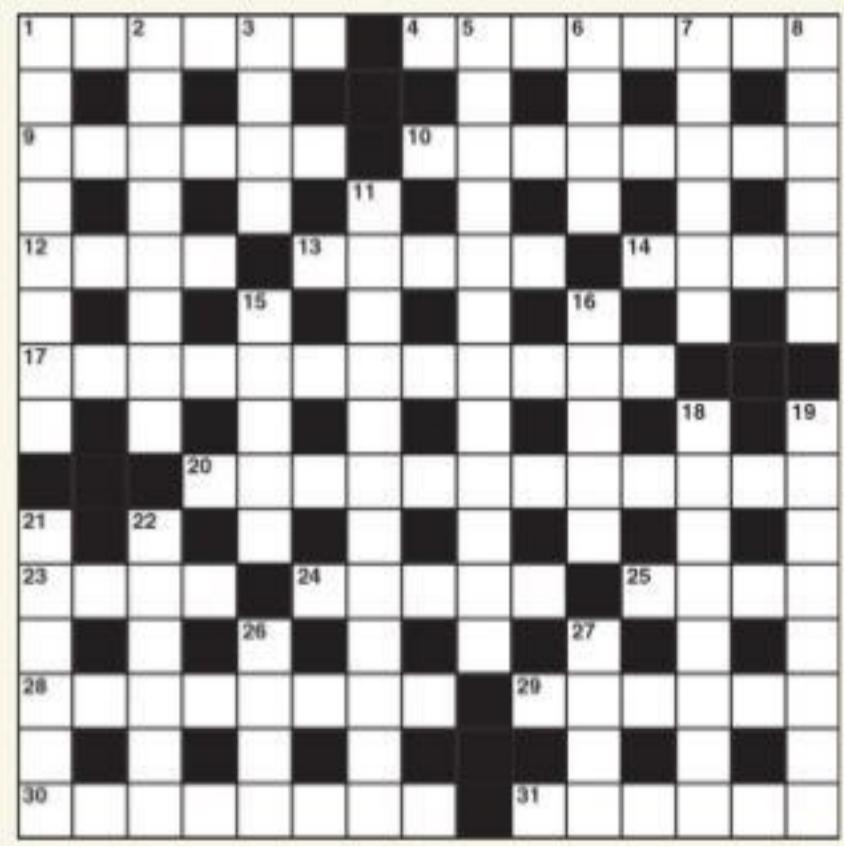
ments. The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), a think-tank, reckons 300-odd scientists tied to China's armed forces have visited Australia since 2007, studying subjects such as quantum physics and navigation technology. In one "particularly worrying" case, a professor at the University of New South Wales worked with a Chinese general to develop supercomputers used in nuclear-weapons tests, notes Alex Joske of ASPI.

Australian universities say they are work-



Relative to the size of its population, Australia now hosts more international students than any other country. Reuters

CROSSWORD 3921



ACROSS

- 1 A thousand new clues for strength (6)
- 4 Incorrect kit means trouble (8)
- 9 Doctor has left to become a cattleman (6)
- 10 A sailor in the cast is naturally a good mimic (8)
- 12 Gets harder scenes to play (4)
- 13 She will briefly appear in a case (5)
- 14 We're all bound to put our foot in it (4)
- 17 Doubts about bookings? (12)
- 20 Fool and woman share a solemn statement (12)
- 23 Sounds an unfavourable bet (4)
- 24 Sorceress of questionable identity, it's said (5)
- 25 It's a very good headlight (4)
- 28 See 29 Across
- 29 and 28 Across: Highlights of an Arctic cruise perhaps? (6,8)
- 30 It has a thick skin, rougher than peel (8)
- 31 Mix us some dessert (6)

DOWN

- 1 Verified what could be measured (4,4)
- 2 Caledonian will be put out by this cost (8)
- 3 Willingly have a new life (4)
- 4 Espionage agency makes the news (12)
- 5 A wrong to right (4)
- 6 Give a touching display of regal appreciation (6)
- 8 Golden eggs served up in fruit (6)
- 11 It's bound to appeal to the less affluent readers (5,7)
- 15 It's comparatively bold (5)
- 16 Work to make some dough (5)
- 18 They make sporadic appearances in a bullring (8)
- 19 Not a neat revision to make notes upon (8)
- 21 Ramble around Carrara perhaps (6)
- 22 Averts disaster only to die of hunger (6)
- 26 Ill-considered evidence of a feverish disposition (4)
- 27 I play in Latin children's game (4)

Solutions Crossword 3920: Across: 1 Shift, 4 Moraine, 8 Axe, 9 Lady's maid, 10 Infants, 11 Incur, 13 Albums, 15 Adonis, 18 Aebeam, 19 Washout, 21 Ordinance, 23 Awl, 24 Apology, 25 Trend. **Down:** 1 Stamina, 2 Ineffable, 3 Talon, 4 Modest, 5 Resind, 6 Idia, 7 Eider, 12 Cannonade, 14 Memento, 16 Settled, 17 Twenty, 18 Aroma, 20 Sleet, 22 Duo.

JUMBLED WORDS

Below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given query. Only the person who has in himself is able to be to others. —Erich Fromm (5...8)

XLAAI
[A X A I]
CCRHHU
[C C R H H U]
AILTT
[A I L T T]
LUYFFF
[L U Y F F F]

Answers: AXIA, ALILT, CHURCH, FLUFFY
-Each from Only the person who has in himself is able to be to others.

SUDOKU 3982

Difficulty Level 5s

Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.



Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 3981



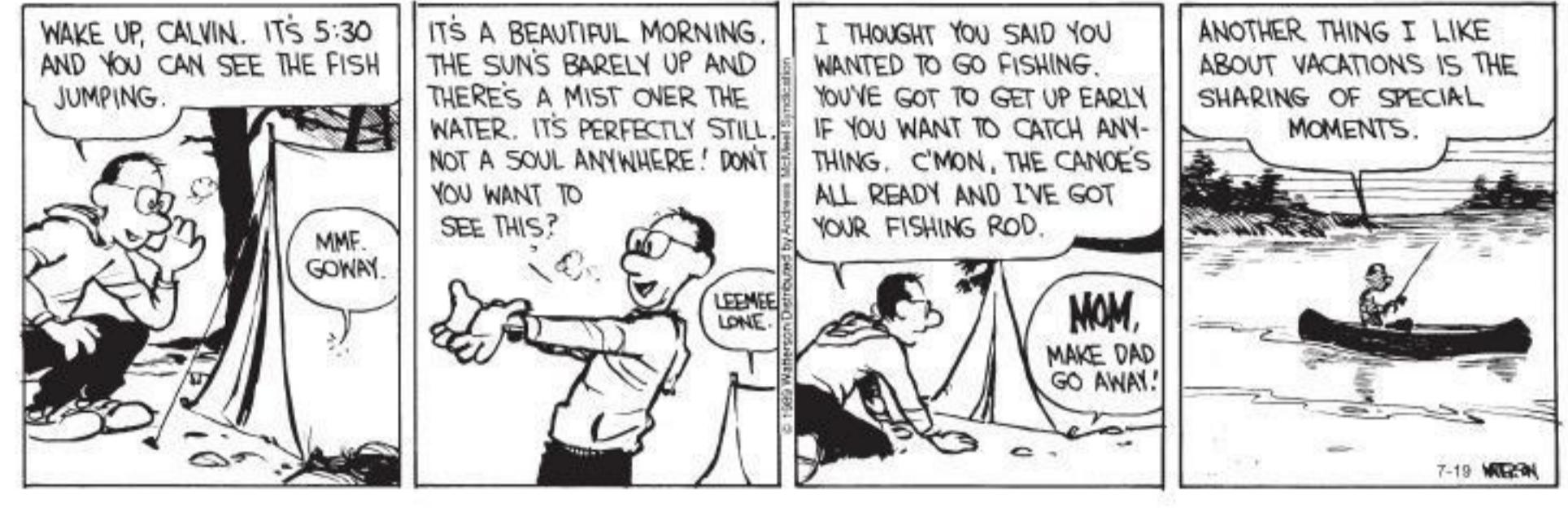
MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Although you are generally regarded as someone who is open, honest and sincere, you will find it difficult to respond to today's events with your usual integrity. If necessary, keep a low profile, and if you spot trouble coming, then get out of the way.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Nothing is quite as clear-cut or certain as you imagine, and you may be astounded when a person you thought you knew well shows themselves in an entirely new light. Alter your plans in line with events and you'll defuse a whole set of personal obstacles.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

The tide of fortune at work is about to turn. Yet you must now be ever more alert if you are to shape events to your will. Today, you may have to sit back, leaving other people to deal with their problems. After all, there is a limit to what even you can accomplish.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Carelessness could be a problem, so watch out if you're travelling: you really must confirm all instructions and arrangements before setting out. Also, don't compromise your principles because, if you do, then you might gain short-term advantage at the cost of a long-term loss of respect.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

This is certain to be an action-packed day, the culmination of all the last month's developments. However, the main issue for you still revolves around your financial commitments. Perhaps it is now time to call a halt to excess spending, or at least to get someone else to chip in.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

You have to travel along unknown paths and venture into new emotional terrain before you discover the secret to who you are and where you're going. In the meantime, try and maintain good relationships with people who, after all, have always stood by you.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

An emotional 'U turn' lies just around the corner. There is a lot which you can do and say, but you would be advised to hold fire unless you are absolutely one hundred percent sure of your ground. I hope that it's not too late. If it is, then you might be blushing.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

The overall picture as far as professional interests are concerned is now likely to become more acute. In addition, you may begin to be concerned that too much stress and strain is wearing you down physically. The answer is simple — take a little extra rest and relaxation. And soon.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

You may be close to finding your heart's desire. Or, at least, you may be closer to establishing what exactly it is that you want and why you are attracted to some people more than others. That's excellent news, for if you understand your motives then you'll be able to streamline your affairs.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

In spite of a series of challenging planetary aspects which denote uncertainty at home, you will be able to overcome any adverse consequences through the simple expedient of careful planning. That, though, is an exercise you'll probably need some help with.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Believe it or not there is a silver lining behind today's clouds. Not until the dust has settled will you see just how fortunate you are. Please do not be put off by other people's apparent inability to comprehend your plans or understand your intentions right now.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

This is certain to be an action-packed day, the culmination of all the last month's developments. However, the main issue for you still revolves around your financial commitments. Perhaps it is now time to call a halt to excess spending, or at least to get someone else to chip in.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Don't get too hot under the collar if partners and colleagues refuse to co-operate or decide not to endorse certain schemes. Your pet projects will survive with or without other people's help. What you need to do is deal with someone who seems determined to get in your way, perhaps by explaining what you're really up to.

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NOTICE BOARD

CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY

APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, HONOURS



AGM-HUDCO

Dr MR Kanth, CMD, HUDCO addressed the shareholders at its 49th AGM in New Delhi on 25th September, 2019 which was well attended by all the stakeholders who appreciated the financial performance of HUDCO in 2018-19.



CONCLAVE-SCOPE

R Kumar, Chairman, SCOPE & CMD, NLC India Ltd. addressed the Technology Conclave: Vision New India 2022 on the theme Development for all through Technology organised by IIT Madras. AR Meghwal, MoS, HI & PE inaugurated the conclave.



AWARD-MMTC

MMTC has been awarded the CAPEXIL Excellence in Export Award in Minerals & Ores Sector (Canalized Agency) for the yrs 2015-16 & 2016-17. CMD V Prakash & Dir (Mktg) A Sondhi received the trophy from M/o C&I & Railways, P Goyal.



HANDED OVER-REC

REC Transmission Projects Company Ltd. handed over project specific Special Purpose Vehicle 'Udupi Kasargode Transmission Ltd.' to M/s Sterlite Grid 14 Limited recently in the presence of CEO, RECTPL and officials from Sterlite.



SPORTS MEET-DELHI POLICE

A "Mission Olympics Sports Meet-2019" was organized by the Police Families Welfare Society of Delhi Police recently at NPL Sports ground. The main object for organizing this Sports Meet was to have a glance on the preparations of our teams.

AWARD-BHEL

BHEL has won the highest number (Nine) of 'National Safety Awards' for outstanding achievements in terms of the longest accident-free period & lowest accident frequency rate at its works. The awards were received by Dr. Nalin Shinghal, CMD.



HINDI PAKHWA-IREDA

'Hindi Pakhwada' is celebrated in IREDA as Hindi Utsav from 14th to 28th Sept., 2019. During this Utsav the activities like workshop, Travelogue Writing, News Reading, Poem Recitation & Letter Writing completion will be organized to promote Hindi.



MOA-NHPC

NHPC signed a MOA for R&D collaboration with IIT Kanpur on recently. The MoA was signed by Gobinda Baidya, ED (R&D), NHPC & Prof S Ganesh, Dean (R&D), IIT Kanpur on behalf of NHPC & IIT Kanpur respectively.



Dr MR Kanth, CMD, HUDCO, planted saplings to launch a tree plantation drive, as part of a series of events planned to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi under the Swachh Bharat Mission.



PLANTATION-HUDCO

Dr MR Kanth, CMD, HUDCO, planted saplings to launch a tree plantation drive, as part of a series of events planned to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi under the Swachh Bharat Mission.



APPOINTMENTS

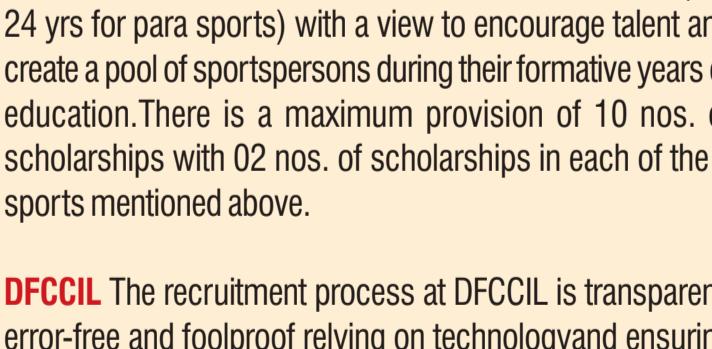
IP UNIVERSITY Ravi Dadhich, a 1996 DANICS cadre officer has joined as the new Registrar of the IP University. Prior to this assignment, he was member in the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board of the government of NCT of Delhi. In his more than two decade long administrative career, he has held many responsible positions in Delhi and other parts of the country. He is known for his sharp administrative skills and transformed the departments where he worked earlier.



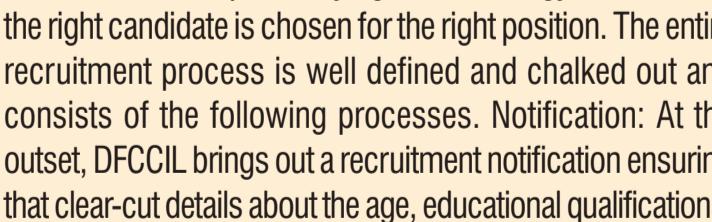
EPIL D.S. Rana has taken over as CMD of Engineering Projects India Ltd. (EPIL) last week. Prior to this assignment, he was working as Director (Infrastructures) in Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd. (DFCCIL) and was looking after the western DFC. Sri Rana belongs to 1986 batch of Indian Railway Service and has more than 30 years of experience.



NHPC has invited applications for the 2nd batch of "NHPC Sports Scholarship Scheme for Upcoming Sportspersons" in 5 sports namely Football, Kabaddi, Boxing, Wrestling and Para Sports. These Scholarships are aimed to be given to promising young players between the age of 14-19 yrs (14-24 yrs for para sports) with a view to encourage talent and create a pool of sports persons during their formative years of education. There is a maximum provision of 10 nos. of scholarships with 02 nos. of scholarships in each of the 5 sports mentioned above.



DFCCIL The recruitment process at DFCCIL is transparent, error-free and foolproof relying on technology and ensuring the right candidate is chosen for the right position. The entire recruitment process is well defined and chalked out and consists of the following processes. Notification: At the outset, DFCCIL brings out a recruitment notification ensuring that clear-cut details about the age, educational qualifications, residing area & category (SC, ST, OBC, Physically handicapped, Ex-servicemen) are clearly defined for each job category. Written Examination: The written examination is held on an online mode with biometric attendance which helps keep an accurate record of the candidates Physical Examination.



ICAI The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) through its Committee for Members in Industry & Business (CMI&B) has collaborated with Manipal Global Education (MGE) and designed Residential Management Development Programme. Keeping in mind the importance of managerial skills in today's global economy, this 23 days programme aims to sharpen the skills of CA Final Rank holders in terms of managerial and leadership abilities. This programme is being organized at Bangalore campus of Manipal University from August 22 to September 13, 2019, and will be made available for the rank holders of CA Final Exam at a concessional fee.

HINDI DIWAS-NBCC

A programme was organised in NBCC office on the occasion of Hindi Diwas. Rajendra Chaudhary & B K Sokhi, Directors & other senior officials were present on the occasion. Winners of the Hindi Quiz Competition were also given awards.



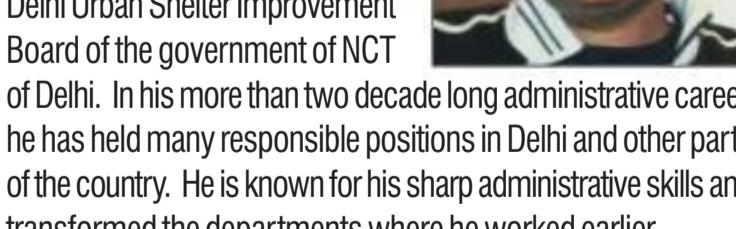
INAUGURATED-INDIANOIL

D Pradhan, M/o PNG & Steel, GOI inaugurated IndianOil's 5MTPD Biomethanation plant in the presence of V Goel, M/o ICE & IT, Haryana Government, S Singh, Chairman, IndianOil, Dr SSV Ramakumar, Dir (R&D), at Faridabad Recently.



CSR-LIONS CLUB

Lions Club New Delhi Indraprastha District 321-A3 on the occasion of Installation ceremony of New Elected President Lion Naresh Kumar and his team have announced the 4 Service Projects.



EVENT-Consular Corps

Melting Pot - Consular Corps Charity Carnival, the annual cultural charity fundraising event is back with its 20th edition in Mumbai. This unique initiative is organized by The Consular Corps, Mumbai H. EM Agrawal, Consul of The Republic of Uganda.

SINDHI ACCADMY Ramesh S Lal has been given charge of Secretary Sindhi accadmy, Delhi with effect from 19th September 2019.

SNAP SHOT

DSC Longlist Announced

THE ANTICIPATED longlist of the coveted DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2019 was announced in the Capital on Thursday. This year, the Prize which is administered by the South Asian Literature Prize and Events Trust, received close to 90 entries. Of these, 15 have made it to the longlist. It includes Akil Kumarasamy's debut novel *Half Gods*, Amitabha Bagchi's *Half the Night is Gone*, *The Indian Express* Chief Editor Raj Kamal Jha's *The City and The Sea*, Devi S Laskar's debut *The Atlas of Reds and Blues*, Fatima Bhutto's *The Runaways*, Jamil Jan Kochai's *99 Nights in Logar*, Manoranjan Byapari's *There's Gunpowder in the Air* (translated from Bengali by Arunava Sinha), Nadeem Zaman's *In the Time of the Others*, Perumal Murugan's *A Lonely Harvest*, and TD Ramakrishnan's *Sugandhi Alias Andal Devanayaki*, among others. Delivering the keynote address at the longlist announcement, Ritu Menon, author and publisher of the publishing house, Kali for Women, said that this year's award saw about 47 per cent entries from women. She recounted a story about how once in the UK, on a literary award list, there was only one woman, among other male writers of South Asian literature – Gita Mehta, who wrote the very unusual *Karma Cola* (1980) back in the day. A great deal of ink has been spilled since then, and much of it by women. "They bring a different perspective to bear on what they write," she said. The longlist, this year, features seven women. The shortlist will be announced on November 6 and the final winner, who will receive the prize money of \$25,000, will be announced on December 16.

TANUSHREE GHOSH



A still from Roam Rome Mein (above); Tannishtha Chatterjee

'Compared to direction, acting is fun'

Actor Tannishtha Chatterjee on making her directorial debut with *Roam Rome Mein* and why Indian industry needs better producers

ALAKA SAHANI

ACTOR TANNISHTHA CHATTERJEE was almost rushed into making her directorial debut. She was working on the final draft of *Roam Rome Mein* last year when its shoot was advanced. She was yet to put her team together. All she had then were the dates of Nawazuddin Siddiqui, who plays the lead role. When Chatterjee suggested that they shoot next year when she is better prepared, Siddiqui was more pragmatic. "This year, you have the backing of a studio (Eros). They might change their mind next year. You should go ahead with it," Siddiqui advised her. Eventually, she decided to take the plunge.

Chatterjee describes *Roam Rome Mein* as "a feminist film with a male protagonist". "I have been toying with the idea for a while. I wanted to go deep into the protagonist's patriarchal psyche by putting him in a situation that is life changing. I thought let me traumatisate a patriarch and shift something in him," she says. As an actor, Chatterjee has been part of several movies, such as *Brick Lane* (2007), *Angry Indian Goddesses* (2015), *Doctor Rakhmabai* (2016) and *Parched* (2015), where the protagonist is a woman. That made her curious to explore if the patriarchal perspective was changing.

Once Chatterjee made up her mind, a flurry of production-related activities followed. "It was insane. Once we got the team

together, we went for a recce in Italy. After that, we had 16 days for pre-production. We used to do all the co-ordination required in India from morning to 6 pm. In the evenings, co-ordination with the team in Italy would start," says Chatterjee. All these preparations ensured that she wrapped up the movie's schedule in Italy, where *Roam Rome Mein* is mainly filmed, in 23 days. The movie is now complete and is travelling to Busan Film

Festival for its world premiere. It will be screened there along with several Indian movies such as Gitanjali Rao's *Bombay Rose*, Suman Ghosh's *Aadhaar*, Gurvinder Singh's *Bitter Chestnut*, Alankrita Shrivastava's *Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte Sitare* and Lijo Jose Pellissery's *Jallikattu*.

Initially, the actor-turned-director had Venice in mind as the setting. "Logistically, it was not possible. Also, I didn't want to take the story away from Italy as the Italian renaissance, which began in the 13th century, and the feminist movement that originated during that period, are part of the narrative," she says. Through this contemporary psychological drama, the director-writer wanted to revisit the period when courtesans had access to education along with women from the aristocratic

families. "In Venice, these courtesans were writers. In Rome, they were painters. Shifting the story to Rome made the movie visually more interesting," says Chatterjee, who also acts in it. The movie features a host of Italian actors including Valentina Corti, who will be

seen in the lead role, Urbano Barberini and Andrea Scarduzio.

Writing the script helped Chatterjee put method to the madness. "I knew what I wanted to say. Therefore, I had an idea about whom to cast. Similarly, I had an idea about what kind of locations we wanted," says Chatterjee, who during the recce in Rome, discovered several interesting locations.

Chatterjee believes that an increase in the number of female directors has led to different kinds of stories being shared. "In the festival circuit this year, several movies made by women directors are making news. This year, four movies by female filmmakers (Mati Diop's *Atlantique*, Jessica Hausner's *Little Joe*, Celine Sciamma's *Portrait of a Young Lady on Fire* and Justine Triet's *Sibyl*) were chosen for the competition section at the Cannes Film Festival," she says and adds that to bring more storytellers to the fore, India needs better producers. "India has a lot of creative talent but we need producers who believe in a director's vision and should be able to facilitate that to the fullest," she says. Next, she will act in *Driving Licence*, a movie directed by Onir and written by her. "Compared to direction, acting is fun. Now that I know what directors go through, I will be a far more compassionate actor," says the graduate from National School of Drama.

Even as Chatterjee was struggling to finish the production of her first directorial venture, she embraced motherhood. She had applied for adoption but didn't know that it would work out in 11 months. "I was told it would take around three years. I had prepared myself accordingly. But once again, I decided to go with the flow and bring home Radhika, who is four years old," says Chatterjee.

I wanted to go deep into the protagonist's patriarchal psyche by putting him in a situation that is life changing. I thought let me traumatisate a patriarch and shift something in him



ADDING THE ZING

Actor Samuel L Jackson is lending his voice for Amazon's Alexa devices. The agreement with the company makes him the first celebrity to voice for the virtual assistant. Other optional celebrity voices will be offered in 2020.

Ways of Seeing

Filmmaker Mika Johnson on storytelling through virtual reality and giving the term 'Kafkaesque' another dimension



KARISHMA MEHROTRA

IN THE late 19th century, when the film industry was in its nascent stages, the grammar of the medium was not much more than a replica of its precursor – theatre. At the turn of the century, the medium unearthed the close-up shot, the wide shot, and the moving camera – an entirely new language for storytelling. "It's funny, in retrospect, that it took 15 to 20 years to figure out the grammar of cinema," said filmmaker Mika Johnson, 44, at New Delhi's Max Mueller Bhavan to an audience of art and technology enthusiasts.

At the cusp of another storytelling revolution with virtual reality (VR) technology, Johnson is bored with Hollywood executives who want to shallowly take the language of film and apply it to VR. "We are still using the same grammar as cinema. VR is a non-linear medium with a grammar that is not just close to, but is identical to the dreams. We don't know what that grammar is yet," he said.

Johnson's latest artistic experimentation with virtual reality is his attempt to crack this new language, taking the term 'Kafkaesque' to another dimension. Touring in Mumbai, Pune, Kolkata, Delhi, Karachi among others, Johnson has adapted one of the most famous opening scenes from classic literature – when protagonist Gregor Samsa, a travelling salesman, wakes up as an insect in Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis* – for VR.

For 'VRWandlung' (a pun on the German word *verwandlung* meaning metamorphosis), the participant adorns a weighty virtual reality headset with headphones, comfortable slippers, and hefty gloves with sensors in a makeshift darkroom with futuristic blue lighting. The scene begins with a black screen; then you wake up in a bed in 1915.

Peeling flowery wallpaper, grey light and sounds of rain from a small window, all seems normal. Until you peer at your own hands and your own body, and you see the "armour-like back", the tentacle limbs, and the drooping antenna above you. As you walk through the space, it's clearly a digital rendering with giveaway computer glitches. But once you stare into a cheval mirror and

Mika Johnson (above); a participant during Johnson's VR experiment *Abhinav Saha*

And to do it cheaper, and faster," Johnson said from his experience of working with Indian CGI artists, colour gradists, and cinematographers. "You have people here who can create striking visual environments. So they just have to get a hold of the technology. The technology right now is expensive, but it won't be in the future."

Currently, the Oculus Quest, released after Facebook bought leading maker Oculus, is the latest standard with no wires and no PC. It costs around \$400. Google's affordable cardboard model, which provides a similar effect with one's own phone, is slowly coming in, but is still without mass appeal in India.

According to Johnson, China currently leads in terms of creative and cutting-edge artistic uses of virtual reality, while Germany and Switzerland has the most funding for experimentation. But it is only a matter of five to 10 years before India will join the wave, Johnson believes.

clientele would be angered if he ran through his stock too quickly. Although Rao says that if other customers insisted, he did relent. Kohinoor himself, as so many social media tributes have recollected, would wander among the tables, taking orders, cajoling customers to eat a little more and flattering young couples by comparing them to Will and Kate.

These stories burnish Britannia's image as one of Mumbai's most idiosyncratic places and of Kohinoor as one of the city's most inimitable characters. But, of course, the reason for the long waiting periods came down to the quality of the food. Its most beloved dishes include berry pulao, sali boti and dhansak. The portions were generous, the meat well-cooked and the quality unfailingly good.

In his final years, Kohinoor expressed doubts about the future of his beloved restaurant. His children weren't very interested in carrying on the business, he once told this newspaper, and in light of the fact that the Bombay Port Trust, which owns the land on which the restaurant is located, wanted to raise rents to current standards, he wasn't sure it was even sustainable to carry on. Kohinoor's loss is irreplaceable, and if the restaurant shutters, as he had feared, it too, would leave a vacuum that cannot be easily filled. But until then, there's delectable berry pulao and as many delightful memories as there are people in the city that Kohinoor called home.

Revisiting Gandhi



IN 1909, WHEN Mahatma Gandhi was penning his book *Hind Swaraj*, while travelling from London to South Africa on a ship, he stressed on how the western model of industrial revolution cannot work for an agrarian society like India. The book of barely 100 pages was banned by the British when it reached Indian borders. The undercurrent of Gandhi's writing emphasised on the importance of people to have a sense of self-worth, which had declined during the British rule. "The British mistreated Indians, and took away everything from them. I read somewhere that there was a boy who was kicked by the British, and later came home and told his mother that he was very happy that day as he had been kicked by a white man," says textile artist and fashion designer Shelly Jyoti, a visual artist and trained designer from National Institute of Fashion Technology in Delhi. This thought lay the seeds for her latest exhibition 'Bound by Duty: An Idea of Swaraj & Collectiveness' at Delhi's India International Centre.

Among the 30 Ajrakh works on khadi, Jyoti's textile installation *Self Realisation* elucidates the idea further. The entry into the gallery gives off the feeling of plunging into the world of an aquarium. Fish in numerous colours, beige, blue and maroon are seen in *Fish Series: A School of Fish-Oneness*, which is made using Ajrakh dyeing and needle work on khadi, as if indicative of the country's diversity.

The fruits of this collective effort could be witnessed firsthand in Gandhi's life in 1930, when he opposed the British taxes with the famous Dandi March by bluntly walking from his ashram in Ahmedabad to Dandi, along with 78 satyagrahis. Joined by hundreds along the way, together they defied the British law by producing salt and selling it without charging any tax on the seaside. Even though Gandhi was arrested soon after, he motivated millions. *Trillions Together* is made using blue fabric and opens out like a mammoth scroll on the floor, bearing the look of an ocean bed with small fishes floating around.

Gandhi wrote *Hind Swaraj* during his moment of transition during World War I, and was also witnessing religious fanaticism around him. "It's time to pause. We need to think where are we heading," she says.

The exhibition is at IIC, Kamala Devi Complex, 40 Max Mueller Marg, till September 27, before moving to Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai, from November 27-December 4

SHELLY JYOTI (above); her work titled *Self Realisation*

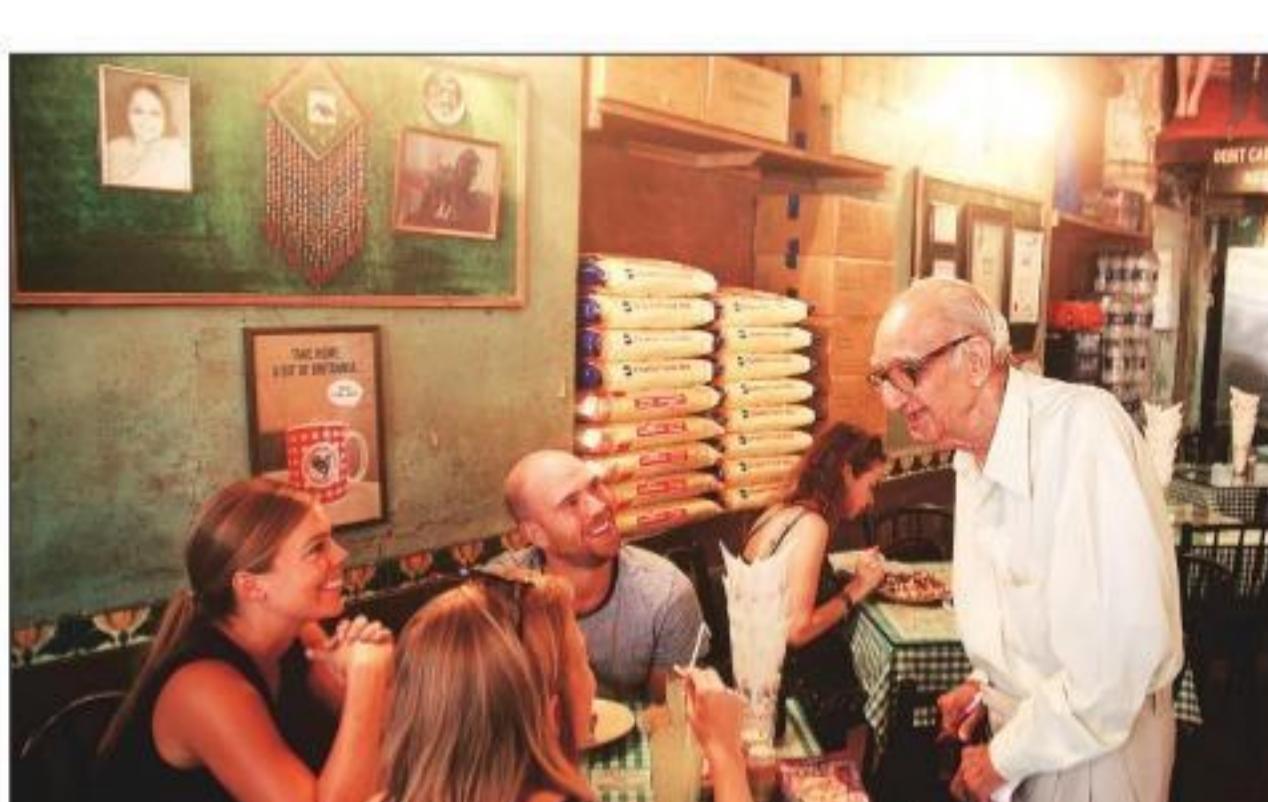
Raspberry Sodas, a Rooster and Other Stories

Remembering Boman Kohinoor, owner of Mumbai's iconic Britannia & Co, who passed away on Wednesday

POOJA PILLAI

A CUSTOMER at Britannia & Co in Mumbai for years, Kunal Vijaykar had numerous encounters with the genial owner, Boman Kohinoor. One of the more memorable was when Kohinoor showed him a letter he had received from the Queen of England's lady-in-waiting. A self-acknowledged Anglophile, Kohinoor was known to have written frequently to the Queen. Then there was the video, in which he asked to meet William and Catherine, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge when they visited Mumbai in 2016. The video went viral and the royal couple ended up making time to meet their "No 1 fan in India", as Kohinoor called himself. So when Kohinoor showed the letter to Vijaykar, the latter was taken aback that he had, in fact, received a response at all. "What did you write to them that they responded?" he asked the old man. Kohinoor said, "Oh, I just told them that I'm a very big fan of the royal family and that if they ever chose to come back to India, they would have my full support."

Vijaykar laughs as he recalls this episode. "I told him it was fine that he had told me, but he shouldn't breathe a word of this to anyone else," says Kohinoor, who died in Mumbai on Wednesday at 97, was, however, not one to conceal such things. From giving pride of place to the Union Jack, along with the Iranian flag and the Indian Tricolour to displaying



Boman Kohinoor with diners at Britannia & Co Express Archive

large cardboard cutouts of Will and Kate in his restaurant, he wore his obsession proudly and happily. A risk, perhaps, in a time that is so long on national pride and so short on a sense of humour, but Kohinoor knew that his city loved him far too much to be offended by this quirk. Indeed, in the flood of nostalgia that greeted news of his death, there were many recollections of his Anglophilic – all of them fond.

Kohinoor had inherited the business from his father Rashid, who established Britannia & Co in the commercial area of Ballard Estate in 1923. The family was among the Iranian migrants who had arrived in British India in the late 19th and early 20th century. While many were Zoroastrians, fleeing religious persecution in their country, they were distinct from the Parsis who had been in India for many centuries. Culturally, perhaps, one of

the most significant contributions of the Irani community was the Irani cafe, which, with its bentwood chairs, glass-topped tables and hot, fresh kharis and bruns, became a beloved feature of Mumbai's landscape.

City historian Deepak Rao informs that in 1947, there were around 350 Irani restaurants in Mumbai, many of which, after the Bombay Prohibition Act of 1949 was lifted in 1972, also began to serve beer. In fact, Rao first met Kohinoor at one such restaurant, the now-shuttered Bastani and Co., infamous for its long list of do's and don'ts for customers, which even inspired a poem by Nissim Ezekiel. "A labourer once walked in, asking for directions. Kohinoor pointed to the board on which one of the rules was 'don't ask for address', and asked the man if he can't read. The man replied, 'If I could read, I wouldn't ask you.' At this, Kohinoor, laughed and helped him out," says Rao.

In Mumbai lore, Kohinoor and his restaurant are larger-than-life characters, with a zaniness that is almost fictional. Take the large black rooster – now deceased – which, for many years, would stand on the counter, behead which would be seated Kohinoor's late wife, Bachan. Or take the now legendary story of the time that the city ran short of raspberry soda, because the manufacturer Pallonji's was facing labour issues. Britannia somehow managed to get a large stock from which bottles were doled out only to Parsis, who loved the drink. It is said that Kohinoor took this measure because he was worried his Parsi

For Indian athletes, a far from smooth sailing in the Worlds run-up

NIHAL KOSHIE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 26

RELAY SQUADS in shambles, a top prospect out of contention because of back injury, and a sudden dip in form of some athletes when they should have been peaking — it has been a far from smooth sailing for India in the run-up to the IAAF World Championships. Here's a summary of India's preparations for Doha.

Now you see her, now you don't

Out of the blue, quarter-miler Anjali Devi qualifies for the Worlds at the Open National Championships in Bhubaneswar in September. She is part of the national camp and trains with the elite 400m campers in Antalya, Turkey. However, her timings plateau. She is asked to head back to the National Institute of Sports in Patiala where another group of trainees are based. By March she leaves the camp. The reasons keep varying: from her mother being ill, to sitting for an examination, to injury. With just about a month left for the Worlds, she returns to competition after a five-month gap and wins gold with a timing of 51.53s, raising eyebrows in the process. She is asked to attend a confirmatory trials, a must for athletes who have been away from the camp for extended periods, to check their fitness and form. She clocks a slower 52.30s and heads to Doha.

'Acclimatisation' costs a berth

It is 35 degree centigrade, the humidity levels are close to 80, the afternoon sun is harsh. A handful of spectators and coaches who have made it to the far end of the PAC Stadium in Lucknow to watch the men's triple jump final of the Inter-State Championships are getting dehydrated and trying to huddle in a small patch of shade. The jumpers have no respite from the heat. The organizers — the Uttar Pradesh Athletics Association — have not even arranged drinking water for the triple jumpers. By the end of the competition, Arpinder Singh, the Asian Games gold-medallist is dizzy and exhausted. His best jump, in his second attempt is 16.83 metres. He seemed destined to meet the qualifying standard of 16.95 metres for the World Championships, but the heat and humidity got the better of him. The logic given by an official for holding an event during the hottest time of the day is this: "Doha will also be very hot." The fact is that the Khalifa Stadium is air-conditioned.

Flip-flop on Hima's injury status

Hima Das's back injury is played down as a reason for her not being able to qualify in the 400m for the World Championships in August. The 45-day break she took to study in Feb-March when she hardly trained, is the cause for her dip in timings, the athletics federation believes now. By September, she is picked for the relay squad with a rider. Now, her back injury has become a major concern and AFI decides that she will run only after a medical assessment just before the event. A week later she is ruled out because of the injury. Just over a year after her historic gold at the Junior World Championships, Hima faces an uncertain future. The fact that she was made to run lower-tier events in Europe despite a bad back raises the question: Did the AFI mismanage her back injury?

Relay bubble waiting to burst

The relay squad have always been hyped as medal prospects. In the run-up to the Worlds, there is talk of a possible medal in the mixed relays. Thankfully, good sense prevails and the prediction is downgraded to a 'qualification for the final'. Injuries to key runners, including Arokia Rajiv, Sarita Ben Gayakwad and Das — all the members of medal winning relay squads at the Asian Games — have been a setback. The men's relay team are on the edge of failing to qualify after being pushed down to the 16th and last place in the rankings. Alarm bells ring and the AFI adds the men's relay event to the Inter-State Athletics Championships a lifeline. A comedy of errors follows at the meet when the main runner of the first team limps off because of injury and his teammate takes the baton from another team. Luckily, there are no last-minute surprises at the African Games, and the men's squad hold on to the 16th place.

No Chopra, no buzz

A day before the Doha championship, star Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra calls up a federation official and tells him he is keen to participate. Chopra has just started throwing after an elbow surgery in May. The 21-year-old is a potential top-six finisher — a huge achievement for a country which has only Anju Bobby George's bronze from 2003 to brag about — but the official is sensible enough to dissuade Chopra from taking the risk of returning to competition too early.

In Chopra's absence, Asian Athletics Championships silver medal winner Shivpal Singh and Annu Rani in the women's section will try and fill the void. While Annu has been consistent at around 60m, Shivpal's form has dipped closer to the event. After a commendable 86.23m at the Asians at the same venue, he hasn't quite reached the same lofty heights. His 76.48m at Czech Republic is a cause for concern.



CREATURES OF THE NIGHT

A cat is seen in the stands at the training facility near the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha. The IAAF World Championships begin in the Qatari capital on Friday. AP

At the stroke of the midnight hour...

...Marathoners will be running for glory in Doha, as the Athletics Worlds begin amid oppressive heat, humidity

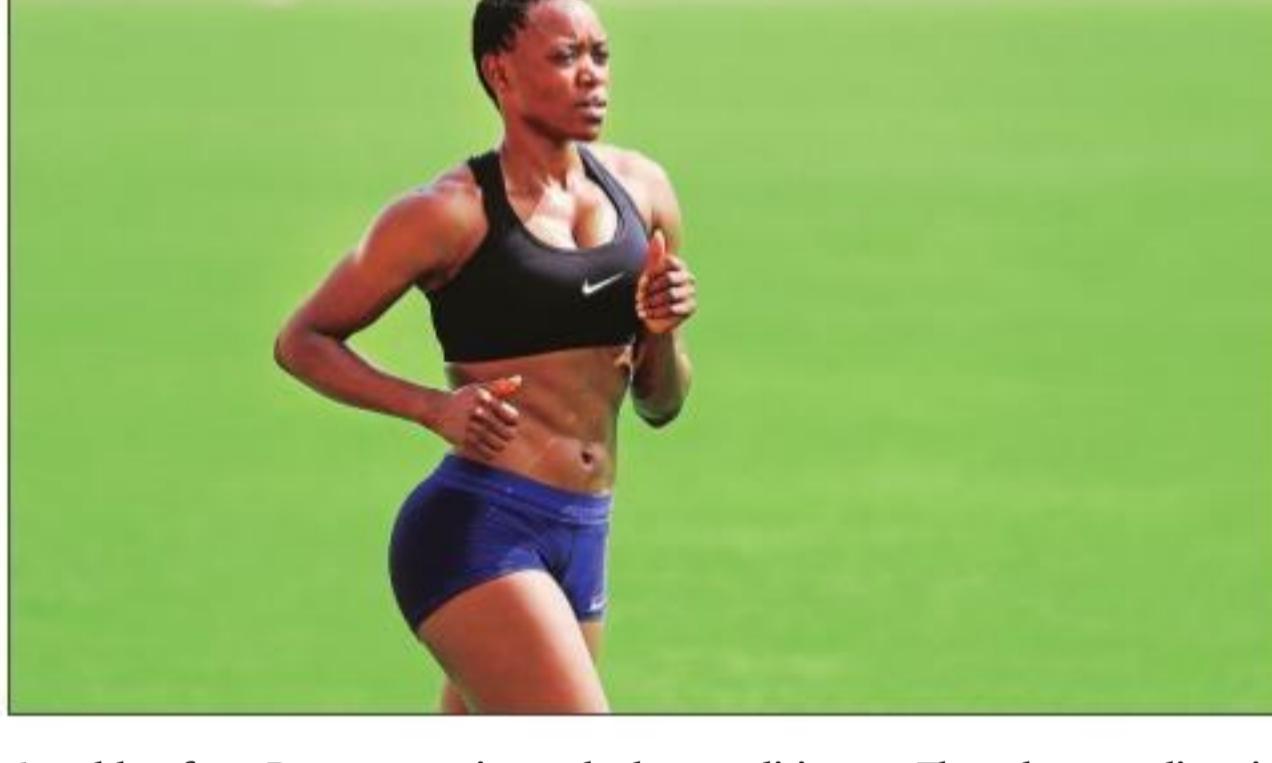
ANDREW AMSAN
SEPTEMBER 26

INDIA'S LONE marathon runner at the athletics world championships which begins in Doha on Friday, Thonakal Gopi, has become a voracious reader recently. The Kerala athlete, who generally goes to bed at 10 pm sharp, has been training himself since the last two weeks to stay up late by reading his favourite Malayalam novels. The reason being he doesn't want to feel sleepy during his race, which will be held at midnight in Doha to give the endurance athletes respite from the sweltering heat and humidity.

"I feel sleepy when the clock strikes 10 but since the last fortnight, I have started reading a Vaikom Muhammad Basheer book. I have also changed my training routine a bit. All the intense workout sessions have been shifted to late evenings," said the 31-year-old, who has been doing his running sessions under the noon sun in Bangalore in anticipation of the Doha heat.

It's not only Gopi who is perturbed by the heat. Acclimatisation will be tougher for the Indian quarter milers who arrived from ice-cool Poland where they have been training for the past few months under coach Galina Bukharina. From an average of 15 degree centigrade in Europe, they are now getting used to 38 degrees. Several top athletes, mostly from Europe, had apprehensions about the weather in Doha, so the World Championships were moved out of their usual window of July-August to late September and the marathon given a midnight start. The race walk events, which demand a high level of endurance, are being held post 11 pm.

"All of us have been training in such cool



An athlete from Botswana trains under hot conditions on Thursday to acclimatise ahead of the IAAF World Championships in Doha. AP

temperatures in Poland and the moment we landed here we felt disoriented by the heat. We have stayed put in the hotel room and haven't even ventured out at all because of the terrible heat. It will take a few days for us to get acclimated," Amoj, a member of the men's relay squad said.

According to an Associated Press report the temperature is bound to hit 38 degrees Celsius with humidity close to 70 percent. The Americans and a few other countries have reached Doha armed with ice-cooled vests. Even though the marathon events have been shifted to midnight, it doesn't mean the runners are guaranteed a pleasant outing.

"Humidity: 80%. Dew point: 83%. Feels like: 112 F (44 C)," American long-distance

runner wrote on social media after a training session at 9:32 pm.

The venue for the mega event, the open roof Khalifa International Stadium, has a massive air cooling system which will maintain the temperature at a pleasant 23 to 25 degrees Celsius. However, the warm-up area is not air-conditioned and how athletes cope with the sudden change in temperature could make or break their championships.

"We want as many people to finish in as good a shape as possible. The medical team will be very alert. The heat is not the biggest issue. Anyone who has run or competed knows you can deal with heat, but the humidity is a challenge," Sebastian Coe, the International Association of Athletics

Federations president said.

But he insisted the organisers are well-equipped and trying their best to combat it.

"We will watch those metrics. We have extra precautions, extra things out on the course. We have more medical supervision, more water available. But it is going to be tough. It will be tough. We have to be mindful all the time of the welfare of the athletes. We have a medical team who will monitor those conditions all the time. We have monitored it since getting here and we've undertaken a lot of work on heat management," Coe added.

Sprinter Dutee Chand, who trains in Hyderabad for the most part of the year, said the sun in Doha is harshest she has faced. The Odisha sprinter points out that though the main stadium has air conditioning, the warm-up area exposes athletes to the heat and humidity.

"I have run in Doha during the Asian Championships and this is the hottest place I have competed in. It gets really tough at the training track where the sun beats directly on you. I have raced in really harsh weathers in India but Doha is a different world," Dutee said.

Twenty-seven athletes from India will take part in the Championships beginning September 27 to October 6. For most Indians, the main target would be to reach the finals of the event and clock their personal bests.

To get a rough idea of the level of competition, Dutee, India's fastest female runner, is placed 35th when her timing is compared with the rest of the field. The relay teams are

hoping to make the cut for the finals which will earn them a ticket to the Olympics. They all know it's a tough ask and the weather isn't going to make matters easier as well.

"We will go all out and try to earn that Olympic quota. The team is in good shape and we are pretty confident," Jacob added.

ACTION ON DAY ONE

19:05	M	100m (RD 1)
19:10	W	HT (Q Group A)
19:40	W	800m (Heat)
20:00	W	Pole Vault (Q)
20:35	M	100m (Heat)
20:40	W	HT (Group B)
21:10	W	High Jump (Q)
21:25	W	3000m SC (H)
21:55	M	Triple Jump (Q)
22:15	M	5000m (H)
02:29 (Sat)	W	Marathon



India's Sreeshankar Murali

INDIA WATCH

19:00	Long jump
Qualification (Sreeshankar M)	
23:05	400m Hurdles

Heats (Ayyasamy Dharun, Jabir MP)

Stars fight for equality by protesting track's pregnancy penalty

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DOHA, SEPTEMBER 26

FOR DECADES, the message to women in track and field was crystal clear: get pregnant, lose sponsorship money. A rebellion led by some of the sport's top runners, Allyson Felix, Kara Goucher and Alysha Montano, is helping to change that.

Two months after the US women's soccer players stated their case for equal pay, women in track and field come to their major event, the world championships in Doha, having found their footing on another important crusade — retaining full pay from their sponsorship deals after they get pregnant.

"It's the power of the collective," Felix said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Alysha speaking, Kara speaking, the women's soccer team. It's just such a pivotal time right now in women's sports, and we're seeing change happen."

The six-time Olympic and 11-time world champion had a baby girl in

November and will compete on the women's relay team next week at the worlds in Doha, where she will have a new apparel sponsor, Athleta, after spending years with Nike. Nike responded to the outcry, as well, announcing in May that it would not apply performance-related pay reductions for pregnant athletes for a consecutive period of 12 months. Then, last month, the company expanded that to 18 months — starting eight months before the due date — and pledged to include specific language about pregnancy in its contracts to reinforce the policy.

"We recognize we can do more and that there is an important opportunity for the sports industry to evolve to support female athletes," Nike said in a statement.

Track and field hasn't dealt with as many equal-pay issues as soccer, in part because men and women compete at the same time at the same venue, so there's never been an accurate way to measure attendance and viewership for one gender over the other.

The women's side of the sport has long

produced as much talent and star power as the men: Felix, Sanya Richards-Ross, Marion Jones, Jackie Joyner-Kersee, and the list goes on. Meanwhile, USA Track and Field has established a pay system based on merit and potential that pays men and

women equally.

But, as the world found out this year, the conversation changes when it comes to endorsement contracts in a sport in which an increasing number of female athletes are putting careers on hold to have babies, then returning to compete at a high level. In May, Montano, the six-time U.S. champion who famously raced while she was eight months pregnant, broke nondisclosure agreements with Nike to produce a video describing the reality of being a woman in track and field. "When I told (Nike) I wanted to have a baby during my career, they said, 'Simple, we'll just pause your contract and stop paying you.'

"The sports industry allows for men to have a full career, and when a woman decides to have a baby, it pushes women out at their prime," she said. "When I told (Nike) I wanted to have a baby during my career, they said, 'Simple, we'll just pause your contract and stop paying you.'

Montano is five months pregnant with her third child and now has a sponsorship deal with an active wear company, Cadence, which has vowed to support her regardless of whether she returns to

the track. Her message led Felix and Goucher to both go public with their stories, as well.

In a New York Times opinion piece, Felix recounted how Nike "wanted to pay me 70% less than before". She eventually helped push the company to change the way it deals with pregnant athletes. When Nike revised its contracts, she celebrated.

"This means that female athletes will no longer be financially penalized for having a child," Felix wrote on Instagram.

Goucher also participated in the op-ed, describing the pressure she felt from Nike to go back to training instead of caring for her newborn son, Colt. Despite Nike's changes, Goucher now lists Altra as her shoe sponsor.

While Goucher and Montano will not compete in Doha this week, Felix will be there, and she won't be the only mother on the track. Ali, the 2016 Olympic silver medalist in the 100m hurdles, will be there. Two-time Olympic sprint champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce of Jamaica is a mom. Marathoner Roberta Groner has three kids.

'Cricket world needs to do more for Pakistan'

REUTERS
KARACHI, SEPTEMBER 26

PAKISTAN HEAD coach Misbah-ul-Haq has requested the support of more cricket-playing nations as the country takes another step towards the revival of international matches on home soil with a limited-overs series against Sri Lanka in Karachi and Lahore.

Major international teams have avoided touring Pakistan since a 2009 militant attack on Sri Lanka's team bus in Lahore left six security personnel and two civilians dead while six players were injured.

Pakistan have been forced to play most of their 'home' matches in the United Arab Emirates, but have hosted teams such as Zimbabwe and West Indies in recent years. "I think it's Pakistan, or any other country that has faced similar situation, we need to make sure cricket keeps going," Misbah told reporters ahead of Friday's first one-day international against Sri Lanka in Karachi.

"We need to do more and more, the world cricket needs to do more to make sure that we play series here on regular basis and cricket is not affected. We understand that this wasn't an easy decision... but it is encouraging sign to see Sri Lanka coming here for series."

Ten Sri Lankan players opted out of the tour over security fears but their cricket board confirmed the series after being assured of head-of-state-like security by the Pakistan government.

Misbah said a full-strength Sri Lanka team would have made it a more exciting contest but still expects a competitive white-ball series in front of packed stadiums. "When you're playing at home ground, you're also different at emotional level. It will be an important moment for all the players," the former Pakistan captain added.

"It is also important for youngsters to play in front of home crowd and home ground. It is key for them to play in front of packed stadium. You can't attract crowd at neutral venue." The remaining two one-dayers will also be held in Karachi on Sunday and Wednesday, while the three Twenty20 internationals will be played in Lahore on Oct. 5, 7 and 9.

High security

Pakistan have put in place stringent security measures normally reserved for heads of state. All the arrangements are being led by the country's military, with around 2,000 security personnel on alert at the team's hotel and at the ground. Sri Lankan skipper Lahiru Thirimanne -- capturing the side after regular skipper Dimuth Karunaratne pulled out -- is confident cricket will be in focus. "The security has been really first class," said Thirimanne on Thursday.

"We didn't have any problems. The facilities here are really good. Actually we are not allowed to go out from the hotel, so we did some get together and played some FIFA games and carrom."

Thirimanne, the most experienced player in the squad with 125 ODIs, accepted the series would be difficult without so many key men. "It's a good challenge because 10 of our senior players are not here. First of all we must respect their decision because it's not about personal decision, you have to talk about with your families when you take this kind of decision."

We need to do more, the world cricket needs to do more to make sure that we play series here on regular basis and cricket is not affected."

MISBAH-UL-HAQ



SAFETY NET

The security around Karachi's National Stadium was typically shored up, as the city braces to host its first ODI since the 2009 attack in Lahore. AP

Burying the past, starting afresh

Several South African players would look to exorcise the ghosts of the 2015 series, which they lost 3-0

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
VIZIANAGARAM, SEPTEMBER 26

HE WAS not part of the debacle four years ago, but Aiden Markram knows there may be scars from the 0-3 defeat for those who were part of the 2015 series. It was the first overseas series defeat for the Proteas in almost a decade, that too with a team featuring the likes of AB de Villiers, Hashim Amla, Dale Steyn, JP Duminy and Morne Morkel -- and the current team is considerably weaker, at least on paper, that was spun out by Virat Kohli & Co on tailor-made surfaces.

Markram was just out of his teens then and had not even made his international debut then, but knows the impact the drubbing had on South African cricket, which has been struggling to reach its previous heights ever since. "I remember watching that series a few years ago and it looked incredibly difficult. And I'm sure there's a bit of baggage that certain players that were on that tour might still be carrying but that's completely fine," Markram told the International Cricket Council's official website.

The first of three Tests begins on October 2 at Visakhapatnam, and the Proteas opener is under no illusion about the enormity of the challenge. "I think it's never an easy tour coming to anywhere in the subcontinent, let alone India. It's full of challenges, but if we can conquer those challenges it will be really rewarding," he added.

Markram has had an impressive start to his Test career, compiling 1,58 runs in 17 games at an average of 43.80, but is grossly inexperienced away from his familiar surroundings. In the only away series he has played, Markram had scores of 0, 19, 7 and 14 on the 2018 tour of Sri Lanka. But he was not part of the recent T20I

series against India as he was playing in the 'A' series in hope of being in the best possible form and mindset when it comes to the Tests. He believes that experience will hold him in good stead against the No.1 Test team in the world.

After a forgettable outing in the first 'A' Test at Thiruvananthapuram which the visitors lost convincingly, Markram made amends in Mysuru with an innings of 161 in a drawn game.

"From a personal perspective, it was nice to spend time out in the middle. I think the wickets we get will be a lot different to the wickets we got in the A series," Markram said.

However, the build-up has been quite steady, with several players including Markram playing the India A games, which fielded a quality side. "In the field as well, it was nice for us as fielders to be on our feet for long periods of time and for our bowlers to bowl plenty of spells in these hot conditions. I took a lot from the A series and I'm ready to go in the Test matches. The guys are positive and upbeat and we're maintaining a really good language in the change room, a really strong language.

Those who are returning to India after the 2015 nightmare may have tales to tell about the difficult conditions they encountered, but Markram believes the South Africans will have to deal with whatever is thrown at them.

"At the end of the day, we're not going to harp on about conditions, we pretty much know what to expect and we just need to get the job done," he said.

Hard to see Rohit sitting out: Rahane

Mumbai: India's Test vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane said it was "hard" to see Rohit Sharma sitting out of the first Test against the Proteas after being given an

other shot at reviving his long-format career at the top of the order. With Rahane himself and Hanuma Vihari cementing their spots with hundreds on the recent Caribbean tour, the only slot open for Rohit was as an opener.

"I don't know yet whether Rohit will open the innings. If he does, I will be happy for him. I said in West Indies also, it is hard to see a special talent like Rohit sitting out," Rahane said at an event.

Defending his fellow Mumbai player, Rahane said Rohit has added the required steel to his fluid strokeplay to succeed at the Test level. "He has worked so hard and if he gets an opportunity, I am sure, he will do well," Rahane believed.

He reiterated the quality of Sharma, which though has flickered sporadically in the longest format. However, in the last 11 innings, he averages 53. "We all know the quality he has -- special talent. Test cricket is all about mindset and ODI cricket, you can just go out there and back yourself. In Test cricket, sometimes if two bowlers are bowling good spells, you need to respect that and come out strong and play your game after that," he said.

Talking about the upcoming series, Rahane said the quality bowlers in the Proteas line-up needed to be dealt with carefully, as opposed to the popular perception that India would stroll to a series victory. He sounded out a warning. "Kagiso Rabada is a quality bowler. He is a wicket-taker. It doesn't matter how the wicket will be. We have to respect him and the other bowlers. They have got a relatively young team, but their bowling attack -- fast bowlers and spinners are experienced. Keshav Maharaj has played county cricket and did well in red ball. You need to

I don't know yet whether Rohit (Sharma) will open the innings. If he does, I will be happy for him. I said in West Indies also, it is hard to see a special talent like Rohit sitting out."

AJINKYA RAHANE

respect them," he added. Besides, there is also the immensely talented but inconsistent Lungi Ngidi, who had harassed India in the 2018 series in South Africa.

For the 31-year-old, one of the bigger challenges is to get more matches when someone is just playing one international format, which is Test cricket in his case.

"The only challenge you have is getting match practice. Sometimes, match practice is really important and facing quality bowlers is important. At the highest level, you face quality bowlers all the time. All of them are equally good. You don't get loose balls easily."

First day washed out

Meanwhile, the first day of the warm-up game between Board President's XI and the visiting South Africans was washed out due to heavy rain in Vizianagaram. Even after the rain subsided the outfield remained wet. This is South Africa's only warm-up game before the first Test. The focus of the match is Board President's XI skipper Rohit Sharma, who will be opening the innings as preparation for the Test series.

The other two India players in action who are also part of the Test series are opener Mayank Agarwal and pacer Umesh Yadav.

(WITH INPUTS FROM PTI)

SPORTS BAR

Chappell retires as Australia's selector

Australia are on the hunt for a new national selector after Greg Chappell announced his retirement from the game on Thursday. The former Australian skipper, who played 87 Tests and 74 one-day internationals, had been Cricket Australia's national talent manager for the past nine years as well as a selector. Former Test wicketkeeper Graham Manou will take over an expanded role of national talent and pathway manager, with a replacement selector to be named at a later date. The current panel consists of Chappell, chairman Trevor Hohns and Justin Langer. Cricket Australia chief Kevin Roberts paid tribute to the 71-year-old for his "exemplary service" to the game.



Krishnappa Gowtham snared five wickets for 43 runs after Karnataka had put on 289/5 in 50 overs against Jharkhand. Express

Puyol rejects Bara sporting director role

Former Barcelona captain Carles Puyol has rejected the chance to rejoin the club as a general manager in place of Pep Guardiola who left in July by mutual consent. President Josep Maria Bartomeu said this month he was hoping to convince Puyol to return to Camp Nou, where he played as a defender for his entire career, between 1999 and 2014. "After thinking about it a lot I decided not to accept the club's offer," Puyol said. "It was not an easy decision, I always said I would like to return to the place I consider my home, but various personal projects I find myself immersed in it."

Thomas best-placed Indian in Shanghai

Rayhan Thomas could manage only a disappointing one-over 73 but was still the best placed Indian at T20-28 on the opening day of the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championships, here on Thursday. None of the other six Indians broke par at the challenging Sheshan Golf Club. The next best Indian behind Thomas was Harshjeet Singh Sethi (76), who was T-54 with three birdies, five bogeys and a double. Kartik Sharma, who began with two birdies in first three holes, had a roller-coaster of a round with four birdies, seven bogeys and a double for 77 and was T-60th. Last year Thomas followed a 74 with 64-65-66 in Singapore to finish runner-up.

Two players questioned over suspicious match

Two tennis players, one from Kyrgyzstan and one from Uzbekistan, were formally questioned by a French investigating judge on Thursday over suspected match fixing. The two women appeared in court in Pontoise in the suburbs of Paris, the prosecutors' office said, adding that they were arrested on September 23 and 24 during a tournament in Clermont, in central France. The inquiry stems from a tournament in Gonesse, not far from Pontoise, in March, a source close to the investigation told AFP.



Kashyap storms into quarters of Korea Open

Indian shuttler Parupalli Kashyap on Thursday advanced to the Korea Open men's singles quarterfinal after a three-game triumph over Malaysia's Daren Liew here. The 33-year-old from Hyderabad prevailed 21-17 21-21 21-12 over Daren, who is a 2018 World Championship bronze medallist, in a contest that lasted 56 minutes. He will next square off against former world no 2, Denmark's Jan O Jorgensen, an opponent he last played five years ago at the Denmark Open. The 31-year-old Danish shuttler beat eight seeded Indonesian Anthony Sinisuka Ginting 17-21 21-16 21-13 in 58 minutes. Overall, Kashyap has a 4-2 record against Jorgensen, a 2015 World Championship bronze medallist.



Vexed Neymar faces litigation on all fronts

Paris Saint-Germain forward Neymar, the world's most expensive player, is embroiled in a string of legal woes with cases in Spain, France and Brazil. A contract extension bonus Barcelona agreed to give Neymar is at the heart of the legal dispute, which was withheld by the Spanish club following his record-breaking 222-million-euro (\$244 million) transfer to Paris Saint-Germain in August 2017. The case will be heard by a court in the Barcelona suburbs on Friday. The bonus was agreed in the summer of 2016. But when the striker left for PSG barely a year later, Barcelona refused to pay him the outstanding 26 million euros, and demanded he return the sum already received. The Catalan club also lodged a complaint.

US see red in Kobe calamity

England overpower United States in a match marred by a challenge on Owen Farrell that produces the first red card of the Rugby World Cup.

UNITED STATES flanker John Quill became the first player to be sent off at the 2019 Rugby World Cup when he was shown a red card for leading with his shoulder into the head of England's Owen Farrell on Thursday and the Eagles also lost two key players to injury in the Pool C match. Quill delivered the hit after the England replacement back had knocked on and referee Nic Berry checked the TV pictures before sending him from the pitch in the 70th minute. World Rugby have cracked down on dangerous tackles to the head this year and Quill faces a ban of at least three weeks for the offence, effectively ending his World Cup.

There were few positives to take from the 45-7 defeat at the Kobe Misaki Stadium and US coach Gary Gold now has repair work to do with 19-year-old prop David Ainuu (ankle) and fullback Will Hooley (concussion) set to miss their next match against France on Wednesday. "It was a bit of a calamity in Kobe," Gold told a news conference. "We feel we let ourselves down badly today."

England ran in seven tries to expose the gulf in class between the sides and the Americans claimed only a late consolation try. Gold had no complaints about Quill's red card and said the players had all been warned about high tackles and how referees would deal with such challenges. "I'm not sure they could make it any clearer. You're not allowed to make contact with the head, and you certainly need to use your arms, and he didn't do either," Gold said. The United States were second best in every department on Thursday and had learned a hard lesson, he said.

"We lost every single aspect of today's game," added Gold, who also bemoaned the loss of Ainuu only two minutes into the game. "When it rains it pours. To lose David, and then to lose Will to a bad concussion, and then to lose Quilly to the red card, it was a bit of a calamity in Kobe tonight."

The lower tier teams at the World Cup have earned praise for their improved showing in Japan and while Gold had said before the game that their goal had been to establish the credibility of US rugby they fell way short on Thursday.

TODAY'S RESULT
ENGLAND 45 USA 7



England's Billy Vunipola (in red) and John Quill of the United States in action during the Rugby World Cup match in Kobe on Thursday. *Reuters*

7 England scored seven tries in Kobe and nearly made the US the first team to be kept scoreless after 12 games at Rugby World Cup 2019.

"It was a bit of a calamity in Kobe...we feel we let ourselves down badly today. We lost every single aspect of today's game. When it rains it pours. To lose David, and then to lose Will to a bad concussion, and then to lose Quilly to a red card, I don't think it was credible tonight, not by our standards."

GARY GOLD,
US COACH

■ ■ ■

Samoa centre Lee-Lo gets three-game ban for tackle

SAMOA CENTRE Rey Lee-Lo has been suspended for their next three matches at the Rugby World Cup for making a reckless high tackle in Tuesday's 34-9 victory

over Russia, an independent judicial committee said. Both Lee-Lo and hooker Motu Matu'u were given yellow cards by referee Romain Poite after the television match official reviewed their tackles on Russia captain Vasily Artemyev within two minutes of each other.

Tournament organisers confirmed the two were cited for acts of foul play and the committee deemed Lee-Lo's tackle dangerous and worthy of a red card instead of a yellow. "The committee... applied World Rugby's mandatory minimum mid-range entry point, which was introduced in 2017 to mitigate the risk of head injuries, carrying a minimum six-match suspension," the committee said in a statement.

"Having acknowledged Lee-Lo's disciplinary record, good character and conduct at the hearing, the committee reduced the six-match entry point by three matches, resulting in a sanction of three matches." Lee-Lo will miss Samoa's pool games against Scotland, Japan and Ireland. The 32-year-old has 48 hours to appeal the decision. Matu'u's hearing was also scheduled for Thursday but the committee is yet to issue a final ruling on his citation. *REUTERS*

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